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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

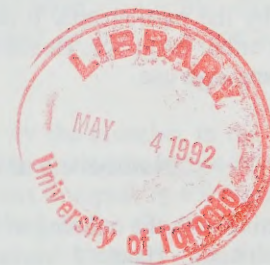
Thursday 23 April 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le jeudi 23 avril 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 23 April 1992

The House met at 1000.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

Mr Martin moved resolution 6:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that cross-border shopping is one of the major threats to the economy of our communities, province and country and that an estimated \$2 billion in 1991 was spent in the United States by Ontario alone and, further, that cross-border shopping is a significant factor in a more integrated North American economy, the government of Ontario should make the challenge of cross-border shopping a priority by conducting a comprehensive study of its impact on the economy of Ontario. Such a study would be a joint venture of provincial, federal and the affected municipal governments and would examine the unique and combined influences of such factors as the present cross-border shopping initiatives of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, the cost of gasoline, the impact of Sunday shopping and the value of the Canadian dollar.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): I rise today with great concern about the economy of our province and the challenge that confronts us as a government about an issue that impacts very severely on our ability to continue to keep in place those programs and honour those values we as a province have come to expect, while our ability to collect revenues and pay for them is affected by a number of items that we both do and do not have any control over.

However, there is one issue which, through further study, we can come to some coordinated, more cooperative answers to if we wish. I don't want to spend a whole lot of time this morning going through some of the information that's been gathered that indicates to us that cross-border shopping is a factor facing a lot of the communities many of us represent in this province. I think every chamber of commerce in any of the communities we represent and all of the municipal governments have effectively presented the detail and the data to us in various forms over the last year to year and a half. The question now is what we do about it.

As the standing committee on finance and economic affairs stated in its report to this House not so long ago, the phenomenon of cross-border shopping is one that is rich in anecdotal evidence and thin in statistical data, and that is the reason for my being here this morning and standing before this House with this resolution. Certainly I believe cross-border shopping is not a very simple problem that can be answered by either a municipal government, a pro-

vincial government or the federal government alone. It's one that all of us together, in cooperation with the private sector and consumers across this province, must take some ownership of and must ultimately participate in the resolution of.

Our government has taken some significant leadership in this to date. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology has met with the Ontario Border Communities Mayors' Task Force on Cross-Border and Sunday Shopping and has participated in a national effort initiated by the private sector to find some answers for this very difficult problem we have in front of us. It has provided many communities, my own included, with the resources to come up with local answers to some of the challenges that affect those communities particularly.

In my own community there's been an effort in place for a couple of months now to make consumers aware of the impact of cross-border shopping on the very fabric of our society and our city. They've begun to take some very significant and important initiatives in the areas of training people in the retail sector and raising consciousness in the business community of the need to provide better service, and have begun to do some very important comparison studies regarding the costs of items on both sides of the river so people have more knowledge about what they are saving by purchasing items in the United States of America.

All of that has shown us there are some things we can do. Certainly the activities of the Partners in Excellence program in my community have already had some significant impact on the number of people going across the river.

1010

There was an article by the chamber in the Sault Ste Marie Star a week or so ago stating that cross-border shopping in Sault Ste Marie has dropped by 6% regarding the statistics that we've looked at for the month of March because of the excellent and important work that is being done by the chamber in cooperation with the labour council and consumers of our community to take some responsibility in front of this challenge. However, I don't think there's anybody in this House who will not agree that this is still not enough, that there still needs to be action taken by all levels of government that will answer more concretely the challenge that is in front of us.

This morning I am focusing on three very important items that have been identified as having some significant influence on the pattern of shopping of people who live close to borders in our province, three items that have been identified most clearly, most effectively and most seriously by the mayors' task force on cross-border shopping and by the chambers of commerce across this province and three items about which there is much discussion and difference of opinion.

I think it is time we developed some statistical information around those, and with that information then began

to make some decisions that reflect our real desire to actually combat or at least come to some understanding and control regarding this issue.

Again in the report the standing committee on finance and economic affairs presented to this House, a number of issues were raised as being important and having an impact regarding this question: lower prices in the United States; the free trade agreement; the value of the Canadian dollar; interest rates; the goods and services tax; reduced enforcement at the border; non-collection of provincial sales tax at the border; high Canadian taxes and regulatory burden at all levels of government; gasoline prices; supply management; higher Canadian labour costs; higher real estate costs in Canada; levels of customer service and product knowledge; marketing practices of US retailers, such as aggressive advertising; Sunday shopping; US discount malls; the recession, and economic uncertainty.

Certainly a number of those have already begun to be addressed by all levels of government: by the federal government—the interest rates are now down significantly in this country; by the provincial government through the leadership of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and some of the work it has been doing; and the municipalities, through programs like the Partners in Excellence program in Sault Ste Marie, have begun to grapple with this and take some action.

However, there are still some items left that we haven't begun to address in a way that reflects the seriousness of these issues. These issues, in my mind, will not go away. They will continue to haunt us until we get some statistical information to show us that they either do or do not have an impact on the question, and also some statistical information that will show us as we look at those challenges what we can do that will best address them, that will allow us that competitive edge we are all seeking while at the same time being sensitive to the need for us to be cognizant of our desire to keep in place the fabric of our society and the values we have come to know and expect will be there. Those issues are the cost of gasoline, the impact of Sunday shopping and the value of the Canadian dollar.

I suggest that our government, all parties in this House, bring this resolution forward to whatever forum will take it to do the statistical gathering and information-compiling necessary to come up with that which we will all require to make the important decisions that will need to be made if we're going to have a significant impact regarding this problem. The place I think would perhaps be most effective in looking at this is the National Task Force on Cross-Border Shopping, which is being led at the moment by the private sector but which is being participated in in a very wholesome and fulsome way by both levels of government, federal and provincial. I suggest that our government take these issues to that forum and ask for some study to be done so that we who have to make decisions about those things will have the empirical information at our fingertips to make proper and intelligent decisions.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Mr Speaker, as you know, cross-border shopping is not a new issue at all. I cannot believe the member is coming forward to the House today saying, "Let's study it." It tells me a

couple of things: The member has no voice in caucus and, even if he has, I think his colleagues are not listening to him. It tells me also that none of the ministers concerned about this issue has ever spoken to this member. If they have spoken to him and recognized him they have, in other words, not listened to him carefully.

It also tells me, which is more serious, that he has not even spoken to the mayor of Sault Ste Marie. The member himself is from Sault Ste Marie, one of the areas that is more impacted than any other by cross-border shopping, and now he's saying, "Let's go study it."

It is a case of wheels spinning in the mud. The government doesn't know what to do. It is inactive; it is incompetent to deal with these issues. We see the impact cross-border shopping has and he's coming forward today asking us to study it. Studying is stalling. The mayor, Joe Fratesi, must be saying, "I don't believe our representative is standing in the House today doing that."

I suggest, my dear colleague, that you wake up and smell the roses. It's a bit late. It's way into the spring now and the roses are about fading. The issue is old and we should not be studying. Government is about making decisions. We are going to study a study again. As you know, there was a study already done on cross-border shopping commissioned by the Sault Ste Marie Chamber of Commerce. I am sure Mr Martin is aware of this. If not, maybe I can get my staff, the mayor of Sault Ste Marie or the chamber of commerce there to send you a copy. Why study it any more?

We are in some very serious problems here with a government that doesn't know when to act and how to act. Cross-border shopping has damaged some of our economy. I fully agree with you that it is not an easy topic, an easy issue, but we recognized it a long time ago. The things your government is doing today are doing more harm to the private sector, the way it goes about concentrating on the labour force and people in unions, the bashing of federal government. They should realize that this is a cooperation of all municipalities, and I think this member should wake up and smell the roses.

Of course my party is prepared to support any resolution to deal with this. I commend you for bringing it forward, but it is so late. We've been telling you that for a long time. I hope when you go home to Sault Ste Marie you'll tell them you were forced to bring this forward and that you knew for a long time it was to be dealt with. You must also tell them that your caucus is not listening to you and that your ministers are dragging their feet on this issue and should have been dealing with this a long time ago. Stop studying. Government is about making decisions.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): First, as the chairman for the Progressive Conservative caucus here at Queen's Park, I want to say how upset my caucus and I are about receiving this resolution only yesterday afternoon. Our caucus was unable to give full study and discussion of this private member's resolution. It seems odd that the New Democratic Party, the governing party, has 40 backbenchers who could not get their act together by Tuesday morning of this week to put forward a resolution in this

Legislature so that we could properly discuss it and debate it this morning.

Mr David Winninger (London South): He only found out he was doing it late last week.

1020

Mr Sterling: The member for London South says he only found out late last week that he was going to do it. We all have that problem in the Legislature. All the caucuses are cognizant of the fact that it's going to be a rushed case with regard to the first private member's resolution, but somehow the other caucuses manage even with fewer numbers. It just shows not only that this government is in total confusion but that the members of the NDP caucus through their whip's office and through their House leader are in total confusion as well.

I feel sorry for the member for Sault Ste Marie trying to defend this government's record with regard to cross-border shopping. This government has raised gas taxes at a faster rate than any other government in Ontario has ever done.

Mr Winninger: You used to do it every three months.

Mr Sterling: The member for London South insists on interjecting. He says we used to do it every three months. One year we did raise them every three months, but when you raise gas by half a cent a litre or whatever it is, it's not the same thing as whacking the taxpayers with a 30% increase in one year, which is what this government has done in the past year.

This is what the government has done to the member for Sault Ste Marie's constituency. Your government has whacked the Sault Ste Marie gas buyers with an increase of 30% over the last year. I take great offence that you bring forward a resolution to study the problem further when you didn't have the guts to stand up in this Legislature and vote against that increase in gasoline taxes. You can't come here as a representative of the people in border towns and say, "We want to study this further," and not stand up for them in the Legislature when it counts and vote against measures which are encouraging cross-border shopping. The matter of cross-border shopping has been studied, it's been studied more and it's been studied again. We know what the problems are: Gasoline tax is one, tobacco tax is another, and the price of milk is another.

What we did in the Progressive Conservative caucus when the standing committee on finance and economic affairs studied this last year was to put forward some practical solutions that we could take in this Legislature, not blame another government and not say somebody else should do something. We put forward several suggestions about what we would do with regard to cross-border shopping. I want to put them forward again in this Legislature—it's in the dissenting report—because the majority of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs is controlled by the New Democratic Party, and what they suggested in the report again was more study. That seems to be something they recommend every time it's time for action. All they did in the report was to recommend more studies.

We saw there were problems and we made four recommendations. The dissenting report of the Progressive Conservative caucus said, "The Ontario government should roll back the gasoline, fuel, alcohol and tobacco tax increases imposed by the 1991 budget." One of those increases was the 30% hike in gasoline taxes by this government over the past year.

Next, "The Ontario government should harmonize its provincial sales tax with the federal goods and services tax," so that both of them could be collected at the border. When people who had gone across to the United States via Port Huron or wherever it was came back to Canada they would have to pay the GST and the PST because they were being collected together and on the same tax basis.

Third, "The Ontario government should use any net revenue gained from harmonization"—that is, putting the PST and GST—"to finance rate reductions on other provincial taxes." Currently, it is estimated that harmonization will result in a net revenue gain of some \$500 million for the provincial government, which should be used to finance a 4.2-cent-a-litre cut in gasoline taxes. We weren't saying, "Increase the deficit in order to cut the taxes." We were saying: "This is a way you can gain some more revenue, by harmonizing the PST and the GST. Take that off gasoline taxes because that's a big cause of cross-border shopping, particularly in communities like Sault Ste Marie."

Fourth, "The Ontario government should produce and make publicly available an analysis of the effects of any relevant legislation and regulations it proposes to introduce or amend on the competitive position of the Ontario economy, but, where appropriate, on specific sectors."

In other words, if the Treasurer, the member for Nickel Belt, comes forward next week with suggestions as to increases in gasoline taxes—which I have no doubt he's going to do and he's going to hurt Sault Ste Marie again—or if he comes forward with new increases on tobacco taxes—which he's probably going to do and he's again going to hurt the business community of Sault Ste Marie—then he should come forward with a competitive analysis of what it is going to do to the community of Sault Ste Marie. Is it going to force more of those people who are struggling to maintain retail businesses in the community out of business? We believe you no longer can make taxation policy within Ontario without considering what your neighbours are doing.

The greatest difference—and I want to summarize in order for my colleagues to have an opportunity to talk about other issues—in gasoline taxes between the province and a bordering state comes between Ontario and the state of Michigan. Combined, provincial and federal gasoline taxes amount to somewhere around 22 cents per litre in Ontario. Go across the border into Michigan and it's around 8 cents per litre. Mr Speaker, if you were living in the community of Sault Ste Marie and you had to fill up your gasoline tank, I know you wouldn't go across the river and buy gasoline in Michigan, but I'm sure you might be tempted.

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): I rise to support the resolution of my colleague the member for Sault Ste Marie, which calls for an impact study on the

cross-border shopping issue, specifically the four factors: the initiatives of MITT, the cost of gasoline, Sunday shopping and the value of the Canadian dollar.

I want to try to reflect the feelings of my constituents and the reality of the city of Niagara Falls. Let me tell you a little bit about the Falls. The city is intimately connected with Niagara Falls, New York, via two very short bridges from our Canadian downtown directly to the US downtown, the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge and the Rainbow Bridge. Local citizens of each side have always been able to take advantage of the best buys on each side. It is an inherent right and a privilege of living so close.

Back in the 1950s and 1960s, young people traditionally went across the bridge because the drinking age was lower, and of course US locals loved coming over to our side for the good restaurants. I'm told that specialty meats and cheeses at our downtown deli was a tradition for them as well. I take my daughter across to the US to see plays at the university there. Every weekend my husband still takes his basketball team to the Niagara Falls, New York, boys club. In other words, exchange is a part of life on the border. Unfortunately, of course, it is just so easy to pick up a tank of gas while you're over.

That's the way things traditionally have been, but things have changed; that balance has been upset. It started in 1989 with a notion called "free trade." Since January 1991, the exodus has even further begun. Since the introduction of the GST, it has been a revolt. There is no longer just a friendly exchange. It has become a statement of protest, and unfortunately that can become a habit.

1030

I also must at this point recognize that there are very many people with very low incomes who are very much in need, and they are very much correct in being the most careful shoppers they can be with their limited funds. I certainly will not deny that. At the same time as this revolt is happening, all across North America there is a restructuring and revolution in the retail trade, which really has nothing to do with cross-border shopping. There are new ways of marketing—discount stores, for instance—and in this age of the smart shopper we must have smart retailers, and I believe that is what's happening more and more. As one retailer told me—I think it was at a chamber of commerce do—"If it ain't broke, break it." It's no longer "just carry on," in the traditions we've always had for retailing in the 1950s and 1960s and 1970s and 1980s in Canada.

I want to tell you about the impact of the campaign, with funding from our Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. Locally it's called, "Look both ways before you cross." These huge posters are evident everywhere, on billboards and in the newspaper, and the campaign is working. There are radio spots which describe a grocery basket of, say, 80 comparable items. With taxes and duty included, there is a \$30 or more overall saving in Canada.

People are thinking. First of all, there are two important outcomes of this campaign, "Look both ways before you cross." People are realizing that spending routinely and regularly in the US, they may in fact be protesting, but they may not be getting the best buys, that there are now in fact many better deals in Canada. Second, because of this

campaign, people are thinking that where they spend their dollars counts. It counts in ways that are important, towards things they value, for instance, their health care and their education.

I talked to one young clerk this past weekend who worked at Foot Locker at the local mall, and he said that when he thanks everyone for shopping in Canada, people are really pleased. They feel good about making that choice. Nurses, teachers, firefighters and municipal employees are all beginning to know that their salaries are paid by that tax base, which is in jeopardy, yet just before Christmas I was in a school in the teachers' staff room and saw a poster with an advertisement for, "Let's all get together and have a shopping trip for the weekend to Buffalo."

I think people have to think a bit more carefully. Yes, it is a difficult issue and it's a very sensitive issue, because it's a free country. People in border communities have always bought gas where it is cheaper, here or there.

To conclude, all of us need to know what the real facts are. People are extremely suspicious of exaggerated claims on both sides of the issue. They ask: "Is it really cheaper here, or is it really cheaper there? Is it really hurting us, or are you just telling us this? Which jobs are we really losing? Is Sunday shopping a factor?" The factors have even changed, I would submit, within the last year. The recession has deepened. Things have substantially changed with regard to the tax base and many other things. Therefore, I believe we do need an unbiased study to look at the combined influences and I think it's very appropriate at this time.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I'm pleased to have the opportunity to rise in this House today to speak about the issue of cross-border shopping. I know the member for Sault Ste Marie well, and I'm concerned that as he has raised this in private members' hour, he may not be aware that the work he is requesting has in fact already been done, and it has been done in his own community of Sault Ste Marie. In October 1990, there was a study done by Ernst and Young for the Sault Ste Marie Chamber of Commerce which asked the question, did the analysis and provided the information. The thing that concerns me, and should concern the members opposite who have spoken on this important issue, is that since this report in October 1990 the provincial government has distinguished itself by its lack of leadership in addressing this important issue. Border communities are suffering and consumers are unaware of the impact, I believe, of cross-border shopping.

Let me just share with you some of the results of the work that has already been done. In the October 1990 report for the Sault Ste Marie Chamber of Commerce this is what they had to say: 72% of the people had shopped in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, in the last 30 days; 37% of people in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, shop in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, at least weekly; only 16% responded by saying that they rarely or never shop in the United States; the average expenditure in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, by residents of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, during those 30 days prior and during this survey was \$86.40.

What were they buying there? They were going primarily to buy gasoline: 36% per cent of the people who

responded to this survey were spending money filling up their tank. Of that \$86.40 they had spent in the previous month, 36%—\$31.40—was for gasoline.

A mayors' task force was established. I've spoken in this House on numerous occasions of my support for the mayors' task force. These are mayors of border communities. What was their advice to the NDP government? It was a differential gas tax. What have we been recommending in this House now for the last 18 months? Lower the gas tax. Why are the people in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, crossing the border to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan?

Interjections.

Mrs Caplan: It's because of the vast differential in the price. I say to the members opposite who are shouting and yelling that they're shouting and yelling because they know their government hasn't done what it could do. They know their government has not done what the mayors recommended to it that it do. They know they have been in government for 18 months and have distinguished themselves by their lack of leadership on the cross-border shopping issue, which is killing jobs in Ontario.

As I look through this very extensive report, what it says about the consumers is that the primary purpose reported by 43% of the people of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, for their visits to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, was specifically related to the purchase of gasoline and milk: staples, things you need. Twenty per cent said they had gone for a holiday, and 18% went across for a visit to a bar or restaurant, but 43% of the people who crossed the border from Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, did so to fill up their tanks with cheaper gas.

1040

The member for Sault Ste Marie, the member for Niagara Falls and the members in the NDP government caucus who represent those border communities know that what's happening in Sault Ste Marie is happening in Cornwall, Windsor and Niagara Falls. It's happening right along that open border where people are crossing to fill up their tanks with gas. Yet the response from the Treasurer in his last budget was to increase gas taxes; the response from the NDP Treasurer in his last budget was not to lower gas taxes in those communities, as had been recommended by the mayors. So during this private members' hour I support not only the kinds of studies that have been done, but I would say very strongly that I support some action by that NDP government.

The only thing that is misguided about this resolution by the member for Sault Ste Marie is that it's out of touch, it's out of date and it's too late. The studies have been done. The mayors have been working together. Everybody is giving advice to your government on what to do. There's one big problem: Your government is not doing it; it's not listening. They think the solution to the problem is to open casinos, and maybe for some of the communities it is, but next week in the budget the Treasurer will have the opportunity to lower gas taxes and create a gas differential for those communities suffering from cross-border shopping, where people are crossing regularly every week to fill up their tanks with gas.

Do you know what else? This study has been conducted and has been sitting on the shelf where no one's paid any attention to it. Do you know what it says? That 90% of the residents surveyed in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, said that on their last trip to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, they had stayed less than 24 hours. That's the problem. People cross, they fill up their tanks with gas, they spend their money across the border, and this government has done nothing to make them aware of how important it is to spend their money in Canada to support Canadian business, to support Canadian social services, to support Canadian enterprise, to build Ontario and to build Canada.

To do another study, as is being proposed by the member for Sault Ste Marie, well-intentioned as he is, is just going to waste time. The studies have been done in other provinces and in other countries. They have addressed cross-border shopping issues. Look at what they have done in Denmark. Examine what they have done in New Brunswick. Take a look at what is happening in other jurisdictions where they are lowering the tax differentials.

Mr Martin: Good idea; that could be part of the study.

Mrs Caplan: The member opposite says that could be part of the study. Your Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology has that information. Your Ministry of Revenue could have it. We have it. I'll give it to you. It's available. We keep trying to help you. We keep giving you advice. We keep giving you information.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Stop it.

Mrs Caplan: And you laugh and you say: "Stop it. Don't help us. Don't give us information."

This study is too late. The studies have been done. I say to my friend from Sault Ste Marie, Ontario—and he has many friends in his community—that he does not want to be known as the member for Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. He does not want jobs from Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, to cross the border to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan—I know that—and neither do I. It is important that he be aware of not only the studies that have been done; he must also know that as an elected member of this Legislature, he has a responsibility, as does the rest of the NDP caucus, to speak out within his caucus.

Tell the members of your cabinet you have the information available. Let the members of your government know you demand action on behalf of your constituents. They're not listening to us; maybe they'll listen to you. We will give you whatever information and advice we can, both here in the House and in committees, but it is up to the NDP government to show leadership and take action, and to this point in time it has done nothing.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to spend a few moments commenting upon the resolution put forward by the member for Sault Ste Marie concerning cross-border shopping. It's been an interesting debate so far this morning. I would say to the Liberal member for Oriole, who was a member of the Liberal cabinet which raised taxes some 33 times in this province, somewhat over 130% in tax increases during the five years the Liberals were in office, that it's no wonder the NDP members this

morning are screaming at her. For once I agree with the NDP, and this is a rare, historic moment in this House indeed.

But I'm a bit critical of the resolution put forward, although I believe the member for Sault Ste Marie is well intentioned. It's a tremendous problem in his own riding. I echo the sentiments and concerns expressed by the members this morning that we really don't need another study, that the library has a number of studies now on the shelves collecting dust. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the border mayors' task force, John Winter Associates Ltd and a number of other groups have put forward studies.

I was Tourism and Recreation critic for my party last year. I had the opportunity to meet with a number of individuals who were compiling studies at that time, and I think rather than another study it would be better to perhaps knock a cent a litre off the gasoline tax. That's something all the studies call for, a reduction in gasoline taxes, particularly in border areas. It's an area the government can take action on; it's within its jurisdiction and it would be better than spending more of the taxpayers' money on studies.

I also suggest members of the NDP grab a backbone and gain an understanding of what this House is intended to be. It's intended that in our democracy you will stick up for your constituents in this Legislature. The NDP member for Lincoln, on second reading I believe, voted against a tobacco tax increase put forward by the NDP government last year. He soon discovered there's a tremendous amount of pressure in the Premier's so-called open government. He lost his chairmanship of one of the Legislative committees, and lo and behold on third reading was forced to vote along the NDP line and to vote with his government.

We had hoped the member for Lincoln would break the tradition of the NDP and break ranks and actually stick up for his constituents, for the people who put him in office, and actually work with democracy and with Parliament the way it was intended to be. We've not seen any members of the NDP vote against their government.

Again I say to the member for Sault Ste Marie, rather than ask for more studies why does he not vote against the number of tax increases that have already been presented by the NDP government, continuing the trend of the former Liberal government, and the tax increases that will inevitably be contained in the budget on April 30? We're told there will be a tremendous new round of tax increases in that budget.

We're overtaxed. We're the highest-taxed jurisdiction in North America. The root cause of our high wages and our uncompetitiveness, and something the Ontario government has a significant jurisdiction over, is taxes. It's an area, unfortunately, where this government has not acted, and individual members have not had the backbone to stand up against their Treasurer and their Premier to vote on behalf of their constituents.

In the Ontario PC Party Mike Harris has never, in the 18 months I've been in office and the time he's been leader, told members of his caucus how to vote. In fact, he goes out of his way at our weekly caucus meetings to remind us that we are to vote on behalf of our constituents.

1050

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): What about the cheque-cashing private member's bill? You were whipped.

Mr Jim Wilson: The member says, "Well, you have whips." We have whips to make sure we have bodies in the House, but we're not told how to vote. School children often say to me, "But you often seem to vote together." I say, "Yes, well, there're 20 of us and we're like-minded individuals and there're very few times"—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Coincidence.

Mr Jim Wilson: It's the truth. There're very few times we disagree. If you look at the voting pattern, we've voted many different ways on this side of the House because we represent diverse areas of the province. That's the way democracy was meant to run.

Grab a backbone over there. Do what you so sanctimoniously told us you were going to do in opposition. We had to live through a 37-day campaign with the NDP candidates in our riding telling us they were holier than thou, that they would never vote as a bloc and that somehow the Tories and the Liberals over the years never stuck up for their constituents.

In the days of Conservative government in Ontario we had good government, good management. We had a practice and philosophy that said one must always keep competitiveness in mind. Government doesn't create jobs; the private sector creates jobs. I don't know a politician alive today, or one in the past, who ever created a meaningful job other than maybe adding someone to the payroll here at Queen's Park. The private sector creates jobs. The sooner the NDP government learns that lesson of history and that fact of life, the better off all Ontarians would be.

I say to the member for Sault Ste Marie, don't study this issue. Go back to your caucus and cabinet colleagues and express to them your concern and get them to take action. The next opportunity is the budget on April 30.

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): As many may know, Sarnia is about a stone's throw away from Port Huron, Michigan. The cross-border traffic between Sarnia and Port Huron has existed for many years. However, there has been something very different in the last few years. The focus has clearly changed from recreational visits to very serious missions to obtain US goods at cheaper prices and at the expense of Canadian retailers. Sarnia's retail industry and its workers are in the battle of their lives to survive this trend. What happened in Sarnia? What happened in Sault Ste Marie to turn fun visits into a war for consumers?

There are a couple of major factors we clearly have to consider. It's common knowledge that the goods and services tax was the last straw for consumers. Any person on the street will tell you that. I ask members of this House to forget the partisan politics of this House and the House in Ottawa and listen to what the public is saying. The general public has said the goods and services tax was their last straw.

The free trade agreement also encourages people to shop in the US. It's something I think we have to pay attention to because it's clearly only going to get worse. The elimination and reduction of tariffs on US goods will

continue for the next seven years. We have a major structural problem to deal with in Ontario. There clearly are no quick fixes.

Even if you agree with the goods and services tax and the free trade agreement, which I don't, the fact they were implemented almost simultaneously defies logic. It has been a disaster for the retail industry in Ontario and right across Canada. The federal government had done an impact study prior to the implementation of the free trade agreement that involved the retail sector. The study was never released. It showed there would be serious difficulty in managing the retail industry in Ontario after the implementation of the free trade agreement. That study was kept secret. We had no chance as Ontarians, as Canadians, to develop a strategy to deal with the problems. Consequently there was no federal policy or strategy developed.

In Sarnia the border zone advisory committee, funded by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, in a poll it conducted identified customer service, selection and price as being the major problems retailers had to counteract to keep shoppers at home in Sarnia. Customer service was identified as the number one issue. They have since developed a plan to deal with the customer service issue involving a phantom shopper and awareness campaign, and it will likely involve wide-scale training of retail employees on the importance of customer service.

The Sarnia retailers are working hard to win their customers back from the US and I think they're having some success. There are also plans afoot to do a weekly shopping basket comparison between United States and Canadian goods to point out that clearly not all items are cheaper in the United States.

The issue of gasoline prices often comes up in any discussion about cross-border shopping. The interesting thing in Sarnia is that even though we are the gasoline refining capital of Ontario, if not eastern Canada, we've never had the lowest gas prices in Ontario. Indeed, sometimes the farther you drive away from Sarnia, the better prices are likely to be.

We have a hard time in Sarnia competing on gas prices in Ontario, never mind the US, and that is clearly not a function of taxation. The facts are that if we took every cent of provincial taxes off gasoline, we could not compete with US gasoline prices. The revenue raised from taxes on gasoline helps to pay for a number of important programs that we as Canadians have that our US neighbours do not. Health care and accessible, affordable education come to mind.

While nobody likes taxes, Canada's tax structure provides many services that none of us as a Canadian, as an Ontarian, as a Sarnia resident wants to lose, services that make our quality of life in Sarnia, in Ontario and in Canada much better than our neighbours' in the United States. Having said that, I think it's clear that tax reform is needed right across this country and I'm proud to say that Ontario and our government is taking the lead to examine our tax structure to see what can be done to make taxes fairer for our citizens.

The federal government must take the same action. Ottawa has made it very difficult for all provinces to raise

revenue because of the implementation of its infamous consumer tax. Obviously the federal government has to recognize this, which currently I don't think it does, and then work with the provinces to help resolve the problem of cross-border shopping, which is a problem that's Canada-wide.

In closing, I think it's important to have accurate data to help all of us deal with the problem of cross-border shopping. There are many who say that simply opening our stores on Sunday will solve all our problems or that simply cutting gas taxes will stop the flow to the United States. I don't agree. The problems are much more complex than that and will become increasingly more complex in the years ahead as Canada opens its doors to cheaper US goods.

It is critical that we develop a long-term, effective strategy to deal with the cross-border issue, a strategy that must be developed with the participation of the federal government and the municipal governments. I remind this House that the standing committee on finance and economic affairs stated in its report on cross-border shopping that the cross-border phenomenon is rich with anecdotes and slim on statistical data.

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I'm dismayed and I'm discouraged by this resolution being presented to this House this morning. As has just been brought up by a member of the government, two standing committees of this Legislature have taken this matter seriously and have prepared reports, and the recommendations await results.

1100

Mr Martin: It's unfortunate that the opposition took the tack this morning of attacking me personally rather than speaking to the issue.

The standing committee on finance and economic affairs recommended that, "The province of Ontario should participate with the federal government and municipalities in a trilevel task force on cross-border shopping." It also recommended that, "The provincial government should appoint a lead minister to work with all the players in determining and implementing proactive solutions to cross-border shopping."

We've done that. We've done that in spades. The national task force initiated by the private sector chose to focus on research into the role of Canada's distribution systems on price at Canadian retailers, communicating the importance and value of shopping in Canada and providing a clearinghouse of ideas from across the country.

I am saying to the House today that we need to quantify the impact of the present initiatives of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology in cooperation with the border zone advisory committees, where we plan to spend upwards of \$2 million this year.

I believe we need to quantify the impact of gasoline taxes, because they have been raised as a significant issue in, as some of the members across have rightly said, studies that have been done by communities.

I think we need as well to study the impact of Sunday shopping on this important issue.

We need, in cooperation with the federal government, to look at the impact of things like the free trade agreement, interest rates and particularly, as reflected in this resolution, the impact of the high dollar.

All of these would be most adequately addressed—because cross-border shopping is a Canadian issue, in my mind—by the National Task Force on Cross-Border Shopping. I suggest this morning that this House recommend to our government that it take these issues to that body and ask for further quantifying of them so that we might make decisions in the future that will truly have an impact, as some of the things we have already done have, on the challenge of cross-border shopping to all of us in this country.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Mr Phillips moved resolution 3:

That, in the opinion of this House, the provincial budget must present a comprehensive picture of Ontario's economic and social situation to include a broad range of social and economic indicators which can be monitored and targeted for progress, including:

1. The number of people living below the poverty line, including the number of children.
2. Social assistance case loads.
3. Social assistance benefit levels expressed in both dollar terms as well as a percentage of the poverty line.
4. Usage of food banks.
5. Housing data, including the average home prices in selected cities required to purchase a home, average rents in selected cities and waiting lists for assisted housing.
6. Distribution of income and wealth in Ontario.
7. Income distribution by gender.
8. Tax burdens faced by different income groups.
9. Number of layoffs and their success rates at securing comparable re-employment.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): Let me start by indicating to the House why I am proposing this. I have always felt, whether it be here or anywhere else, that establishing targets and goals is important. There is perhaps no more important document than the budget where those goals and targets should be established, because the budget clearly indicates, in very real terms, where a government's priorities are and what it will attempt to achieve. I think it is a good way of operating—to set yourself some goals and targets.

Second, if I might provide some advice to the government, I think the New Democratic Party will want some benchmarks. I think they'll want to have those targets. They'll want to be able to say to the people of Ontario, "Here is where things have been, here's where things are right now and here's where things are going to be in the future."

I picked this particular resolution, as I'm sure everyone in the House recognizes, because it is word for word a resolution that had been proposed by at least two of the current cabinet ministers. I think the Minister of Labour

and the Attorney General, word for word, proposed this resolution. The reason I've repeated it verbatim is to ensure that we speak as one voice here. I think it's an opportunity for the Legislature—and it's very timely in that the Treasurer will be bringing forth his budget next week—for all of us to say to the Treasurer that part of the budget should include these numbers.

In the future we may want to add additional ones, but in the interest of getting the entire House's support for it I specifically chose the words that were in a report of two years ago that the current Minister of Labour and the current Attorney General prepared. So I would indicate to the government members in the Legislature that one should feel comfort that it has the blessing certainly of the Premier and I think of prominent members of the cabinet. I think it's timely that we have this resolution before us. I look forward to the weight of the government members in ensuring that the Treasurer does move forward on this.

If I might just comment a little bit on some of the other documents, the Agenda for People, which we're all familiar with, will be a kind of scorecard of the government. I remember, in the months after the election, most if not all members of the government indicating that indeed this would be the basis on which they would want to be evaluated. As you head into the next election, I think Hansard will show that virtually every member of the government at one time or another during the debate on the speech from the throne agreed, "Yes, this is going to be our scorecard." Just as, when we headed into the last election, the then Premier Peterson was held accountable in some very vivid language, I would think as we head into the next election each of the government members who runs again will want to ensure that the Agenda for People has been delivered on.

So it isn't just the opposition that would find this helpful; I think all the government members would find it helpful, because getting into the budget the goals that will deliver on your promises will be extremely important. It's part of my plea to the members opposite for strong support of this resolution that in addition to being good for the people of Ontario it's probably very good for yourselves.

The specific areas we're asking for, or that were asked for by the current Minister of Labour and Attorney General and we're now proposing as a resolution, include the number of layoffs and the success rates at securing comparable re-employment. All of us, as we go to our constituencies, probably see the same thing: the number of people coming to us saying: "Listen, I have been 20 years in a very good job. Suddenly the plant's closed. What in the world am I going to do?" Many of them are extremely tragic. People who never even dreamed they might have to apply for welfare—it never entered their minds—are now involved in that.

I reviewed the layoff statistics—I think most members get these—the plant closures, the plant downsizing and the partial closures. It is of continuing, major concern. These are the 1991 numbers. We can see 118 plants. Every three days we have a plant closing in Ontario. In the month of March, as the members will recall, we lost over 1,000 jobs a day. Goodness knows we welcome the Ford announcement,

but there were more jobs lost in one day in March than the whole Ford announcement. As I say, 118 plants closed in 1991, and these are a broad cross-section. I might add that 85% of the workers affected by these were unionized workers—85% unionized workers. That's why I think it's in all our best interests that we have the numbers—not just the laid-off; we've got that, but what success rate they have secured in getting re-employment.

1110

I could talk at length about the layoffs and the tragedy. As I say, I think each of us in our own constituency sees it every day. We used to be a province that had the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia all have lower rates than we do now, and believe it or not, Quebec is beginning to close the gap.

My own judgement, by the way, is that the unemployment rate in the province is much more like 12.5%, not 10.5%. If you look at the numbers there are about 100,000 to 150,000 people who should be in the workplace who aren't. They've dropped out; they've given up. So the real number, believe me, is more like 12.5% instead of 10.5%.

Another recommendation, which again I don't claim credit for authoring but I certainly support, is the social assistance case loads. We now see well over a million people having to turn to social assistance, and I repeat, I am one who believes there is basically very little abuse of that system. In any system involving a million people there are bound to be some people who abuse it, there's no question of that—just a million people in any area—but overwhelmingly the people who are there are there because they have no alternative. I believe that. As I say, I see those people weekly, if not daily.

But if we don't establish how many were there before, how many are there now and are we making any progress—I suspect the Treasurer's budget next week will have a plan, and the plan will probably be, "If you hire someone who is currently needing welfare we will provide you with a supplement." It probably will be some form of scaling-down thing. But we don't have the criteria to evaluate whether it's working or not. We'll go through a whole year and at the end of that year we won't know whether that was a worthwhile expenditure. So I support very much the need to get the numbers on the social assistance case load and look at the progress that's being made.

The usage of food banks was number 4 here—and I'm just picking a few, Mr Speaker—which again is rather timely in that we see, as we speak, the Daily Bread Food Bank in Metropolitan Toronto and similar food banks around the province attempting to cope with a very difficult situation. Again, I know people who use food banks who, if you'd asked them five years ago, would never have dreamed that they would be required to go to a food bank. Some of the statistics are quite shocking in terms of education levels and what not.

In conclusion, I look forward to the debate in the House and I look forward very much to a strong message on this resolution going to the Treasurer, as I say, on a timely basis, so that we will have these pieces of information.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I come to this debate in support of the member for Scarborough-Agincourt's resolution, not only for the particulars of the resolution but more for the thrust of the resolution.

I'd like to talk about this resolution in a more esoteric or philosophical mode than in terms of the particulars of the resolution. I've had some experience with information issues, and that's basically what we're talking about here this morning.

In 1981, when I was appointed to the cabinet of Ontario, I was given responsibility for freedom of information under the former Progressive Conservative government. I wrestled with that issue for a period of four or five years as a cabinet minister, unable to have the cabinet of which I was part come to a resolution as to how we would put forward the very noble idea of freedom of information. During that time and subsequent to the time I served in cabinet, I have had, I guess from that perspective, an opportunity to view the information issues which we consider as legislators of Ontario not only from the government benches but also from the opposition benches which I am now graced to sit upon.

It came apparently clear to me, when I was vice-chairman of Management Board—I can never forget the day when I had asked for some information with regard to the expenditures of the province to be presented to Management Board in a certain fashion. I can't recall the fashion in which I requested that information to be presented, but I do remember getting the results. The other members of the cabinet who sat on Management Board along with myself, and actually the former member for Simcoe West, Mr McCague, looked at it and said, "My God, the last thing in the world we'd ever want the public to see is this information presented in this form." Ever since that day when I sat on Management Board and we basically shoved that piece of paper into our pockets and took it with us but never had it published as we might publish in ads or in brochures or in the budget, I realized that the presentation of information is as important as the information itself. Perhaps the presentation of information is more important than the information itself.

When I went through the debate on freedom of information under the former Liberal government, I tried to impose during that debate—it was a minority Parliament—the right of members of the Legislature to ask the government of the day to present information in certain forms or in certain methods or in certain documents and on a timely basis. Unfortunately, at that time I was repudiated by the Liberal government and was not able to obtain the support of the New Democratic Party, which was sitting in third place at that time but was negotiating with the government with regard to other amendments. I don't think it was because the New Democratic Party thought my amendment was unreasonable, but I think it was caught up in the negotiations with regard to other matters.

But until the public, until members of this Legislature and until the cabinet have information which is presented to them in an organized fashion, then we will not be able, in this province, either as legislators within this body or within cabinet, to make reasonable and logical decisions

based on the trends which are occurring around our economy and around the programs we create in this body.

What I would dearly love to see is a second phase of freedom of information, because freedom of information in my view has been a tragic failure. That hasn't been because the former Liberal government which brought it in or the present NDP government are trying to do anything with regard to the way the law is written—in other words, they're not acting against the law as it's written—but the fact is that in this society of Ontario we have become so involved in the day to day lives of the citizens and our programs have become so large that it is impossible for 20 or 30 men and women who sit in the cabinet of Ontario, who are the government of Ontario, to really know what is happening around them with regard to the moneys they are collecting from the taxpayer and spending. Nor is it possible for a member of the Legislature to sit in opposition and intelligently criticize the spending of the government with regard to any program, because we don't really have the information organized in a fashion, nor do we have the timely reporting of how that money is being spent. That information is never before us in time for us to really take any corrective action.

1120

We have done something in the Legislature about that. We have basically done away with the estimates process, or we have put the estimates process within this Legislature way down on our totem pole of priorities. I think that was the right move in the present circumstances. But when the government of Ontario, be it us or them or the other political party, brings forward a program and says, "We're going to deal with this problem by creating this program," I think it should be incumbent upon the government and the members of this Legislature to go to a legislative committee, have the Provincial Auditor come into that committee, and say: "We've created a new program today. What is a reasonable and fair method of monitoring what we've done? What can we set down in terms of reporting, and how fast can this reporting be done?"

We have had the introduction of computers throughout this government. The number of dollars the taxpayers have spent to equip our government with computers has been phenomenal, but we have not required the government to utilize those computers to produce information to the public on a timely basis.

Surely it is within good, reasonable, logical sense to say to the government that when it creates a program, what we require as well from the government, members of the Legislature in particular, is a method of calculating whether that program is successful. If you are going to try to help one segment of society, then you should be able to say, "We are going to put down these parameters, we're going to put down these conditions that should be met over a period of time, and let's try to measure those so that in two or three years, if we are failing to meet our objectives, we either chop that program or we transfer those funds to another body or we try to address that problem in society another way."

When I was parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General prior to the 1981 election, I was a member of the

cabinet committee on justice. There were only a few members of cabinet, four ministers, involved in that cabinet committee. I took on the task of looking into a number of expenditures we had made in government with regard to taking care of people who were on the streets, basically people who had trouble with alcohol. We had set up a number of hostels across urban areas to look into the whole idea of helping out these individuals. At that point—I think this program had been created around 1976—there was an evaluation done on that particular program. It found that the individuals we set this program up for were no longer benefiting from the program; the people who were homeless and on the street were no longer being cared for by the people in these hostel institutions which we had set up for them. What did we as a government do? We created three or four more of them. We went from 14 to 16 to 18 to 19 of these small institutions or homes to take care of these people who were very low on the totem pole in our social order. We set up four more of these when we weren't even meeting the objectives of our program before.

What happens in government, and the reason our government expenditures have exploded, is that we have no real reporting mechanism. We have no real call in terms of asking a government when it creates a program, "Was it successful or was it not successful?" Therefore, I support very much the attempt by the member for Scarborough-Agincourt to bring to light some more indicators so we as legislators and the public will have some opportunity to measure and to be able to feel whether our economy is performing and whether or not we should take some alternative action.

Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): I appreciate the opportunity to address this resolution. I have to say at the outset that in reviewing the resolution and listening to the opening comments of the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, I'm rather disappointed. I have the greatest respect for the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, having spent considerable time with him on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, indeed travelling the province on the post-budget discussions, and having seen his commitment and his dedication to this place and the amount of work he brings to issues he tackles. It's in that context I'm disappointed that, in the midst of the worst recession we've had since the Great Depression, the best the critic for Treasury and Economics could come up with was to bring forward an old NDP resolution in a feeble attempt to try and embarrass this government. That was the best he could do. I'm disappointed. I expect he could have done much better.

If we were on the other side and we were the opposition and we had this opportunity, I suspect we'd have made a much clearer point and that indeed we'd have made much better use of the opportunity to talk about the economics during this time, particularly when as opposition, of course, you don't have the responsibilities of government and you have a lot more latitude in which to use a lot of the very depressing and negative indicators that are out there. That's why my opening comment.

Having said that, however, I would like to talk about a couple of the points the member raised. My colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton will talk about some of the specific issues the member raised. He will respond to those. The Agenda for People is constantly used by the opposition members when they want to talk about policies that haven't been followed through and promises not fulfilled etc. Again, I don't blame them. I'm certain that if I were on the other side I'd be doing exactly the same thing.

Let's be fair. Agenda for People was written at a time when the recession was beginning, when we were just starting to see the indicators, and it was done at a time when even the mainstream economists across the country were predicting a certain level of recession for a certain period, which has since been reassessed, and not reassessed just once but a number of times.

That has been done on the national level, not by treasury economists only. It's been done by the economists who came in front of our own standing committee on finance and economic affairs and gave us the projections they saw, the mainstream economists one reads about in the paper and hears on TV and the radio when there are issues of the economy to be discussed. Those very individuals have come before us time and time again and gone before the public and revised their forecasts because no one expected the severity of the recession we're facing, nor the duration. Even now, on the front page of today's Globe and Mail we're seeing another revision. It's a good revision and we're glad to see that one, but it's a revision all the same.

I suggest, with a great deal of humility, that had we implemented Agenda for People word for word and not taken into account the serious economic times, which were not forecast by anyone, we would hear howling from across the House that we were being irresponsible, that we were being dogmatic, that we had no right to govern because all we were interested in was in ensuring that we could say we followed every word on a piece of paper, and that we weren't doing what was in the best interests of the people of Ontario.

1130

On the issue of whether or not we have a plan, to tie back to the resolution that's here, first of all take a look at the first budget the Treasurer presented to this House that contained a five-year fiscal outlook about some targets in terms of deficit and in terms of revenue. It took a lot of guts, especially since the recession. It had to be revised, with the indicators on that. But let's understand that was the first Treasurer in this country to do that. None of the other governments here in Ontario, none of the other governments in any of the provinces or the federal government had the guts to say: "There's where we think we're going to be in five years. There are our targets and goals and they're right out there for you to look at and criticize if we don't achieve them." We did that. This government did that in its first budget, so I take great exception to anyone suggesting that we're not offering the kinds of information one wants or needs to properly assess how we're doing in this province.

While we're talking about information, let's also recognize that in the three economic documents that have been published by the current Treasurer of Ontario, there are facts and figures and formulae in them that have never before been presented to the people of Ontario before a budget, and in some cases not even afterwards. The budget process has been entirely revolutionized in this province in a very short period of time. We'll continue to do that, because we believe in acting on the commitment on providing information and opening government.

I might mention to my friend in the third party, as well as to the mover of the resolution, that we've been here 18 months and you want all this to be done. You were there for five years. Why didn't you do it? If you thought it was such a great idea, why didn't you do it? They were there for 42 years. For five of those years they couldn't even get a freedom of information act—we just heard that confession from the minister responsible—and yet here we are and in 18 months we have completely revolutionized the way budget development takes place in this province and we will continue to do so.

I'm going to end by mentioning a couple of points, and allow my colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton an opportunity, but I want to say this: In terms of gauging how effective we've been, first of all let's take a look at the things we talk about in the throne speech. Time after time the actions are implemented in the budgets that flow from those throne speeches, and at the end of the day we're prepared to accept the verdict and judgement of the people, because we honestly believe you will see that we had a plan that was very consistent to protect as much as we possibly can the people who are being hurt the most in this recession, and also to build on the recovery that will come, that hopefully we're going to begin seeing in the latter quarters of this year.

Did we as a government ensure that this province was on a strong footing to take advantage of the opportunities of coming out of the recession? I think the answer will be that the people of Ontario will see that we did have a plan, that we implemented that plan, that it was an effective plan and that we will be quite deserving of their support and another opportunity for a second term.

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I am pleased to participate in this debate on the resolution by my colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt. As my party's critic for Community and Social Services, I have a grave sense of disappointment in the direction this government is taking Ontario. In particular, the abandonment by the NDP of those people most in need deeply concerns me.

This resolution, as my colleague has stated, is taken directly from the NDP minority report on the 1990 pre-budget hearings, and now, nearly two years into the mandate of this government, where do we stand in terms of the priorities of this NDP government? We don't know.

I wish to look at only two examples from the resolution: the social assistance case loads and the food banks.

The social assistance case load across this province in March 1992—this year—is at a total of 1,164,100 beneficiaries, over one million people who need real and concrete help from this government. This shocking figure

represents an increase over last year of 265,000 recipients or 30%.

In the 1990 throne speech this NDP government made the following promise:

"We will provide support for those who find themselves out of work and unable to provide for themselves and their families. We pledge to continue the reform of Ontario's social assistance system and address the shame of child poverty in the midst of affluence."

I regret to say that there is no hope for these people in the throne speech of 1992, whether these people be victims of violence, parents unable to access child care spaces or those in need of long-term care. These people weren't mentioned in throne speech '92. Will they be mentioned in budget '92?

I attended the food drive of the Daily Bread Food Bank here in Toronto on Easter Monday. I found hundreds of committed volunteers working to collect and sort the generous food donations made in this city. Mr Speaker, you and I know that they've extended that food drive by a week because all this commitment and generosity is just not enough. The significant increase in the number of people driven to use the food banks is most tangible evidence of this government's total failure to keep its promises.

A recent report produced by the Daily Bread Food Bank, entitled *Nowhere Else to Turn*, says this in its conclusion:

"Food banks currently wage a war on poverty which they are ill-equipped to win. The casualty list is already grim: It includes the most vulnerable people, such as children and those in poor health; and it includes those who were previously considered to be a stable workforce and young people embarking on their careers. Ensuring that the poor maintain health, hope and vigour in tough times must be a first priority of all levels of government."

Will that be a part of budget '92? It was not part of throne speech '92. As the official opposition critic for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, I listened carefully and with a sense of deflation to His Honour last week as he read the government's speech on its policies. He stated, "If we do not succeed"—in managing Ontario's economy efficiently—"then badly needed reforms in our child care, social assistance and long-term care systems will be unaffordable."

If what we've seen in the past 18 months is any indication of this government's ability to succeed in managing Ontario's economy efficiently, then partners in these vital programs are indeed worried. In short, this government's throne speech does not give consumers confidence to spend their money; it does not give security to financiers to invest in this province, and it gives not one of us reason to believe any promise this government makes.

I bring to your attention this morning's headline in the business section of the *Ottawa Citizen*: "Tough Ontario Budget Worries Investors." "'With the upcoming Ontario budget we expect to see some selling of the Canadian dollar,'...investor nervousness will build as the April 30 budget date approaches." That's the result of this government's economic policy. A government's major policy statement is its budget. The 1991 budget was changed

at least three times. This NDP government's word is meaningless. It can't be trusted to carry out even the major policies it proposes or the major promises it makes.

I close by quoting from an editorial in the April 7, 1992, *Toronto Sun*, "When Rae first took office, he made a point of saying that when it comes to governing, there comes a time when you have to stop 'polishing your glasses' and act."

I would suggest the time has come. I would urge the Premier and his government to make that decision. The time to act is now. Ontario needs leadership, not platitudes, today; not in 1993, not six months from now, not three months from now, but today.

1140

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to rise in support of the resolution put forward by the member for Scarborough-Agincourt. I think it's a very good resolution, even though it's a rehash of previous NDP resolutions. It will be interesting for the public that's watching, and that will be following up in Hansard later, to see whether the NDP members actually vote for this resolution, given the fact it's one of their old resolutions.

I think benchmarks are very important. It is difficult, as a legislator, to determine the effectiveness of government programs. There has been a real trend in the last two governments to expand programs, yet we do not know whether those programs are actually effective. It reminds me of a similar resolution put forward by my party that called upon sunset clauses and mandatory reviews of legislation from time to time, to see whether that legislation, any new legislation, is actually producing the results it was intended to produce.

I would add to the resolution a couple of suggestions. Part 6 of the resolution talks about a benchmark concerning the distribution of income and wealth in Ontario. It always astonishes me that the Liberal Party or the NDP never seem to concern themselves with the creation of wealth. I think we should have a benchmark so we better know who actually creates the wealth in Ontario, who creates the jobs and what type of burdens we are putting on those important sectors of society. It's a debate we seldom have. When we do have it, it's always instigated by members of the Ontario PC Party.

Second, I would think that in part 8, which talks about tax burdens faced by different income groups, we also should include the tremendous pile of deferred taxes that businesses tell us are preventing them from setting up shop in Ontario, and in fact are forcing them out of Ontario. One is reminded of the tremendous deficits we now have in this province year after year, the accumulated debt. One thing that's not often talked about—at all, really—by the NDP government is the over \$10 million in unfunded liability in the workers' compensation. The deficit, the debt, unfunded liabilities are all deferred taxes.

Businesses that at one time were interested in coming to Ontario—in particular Collingwood, Ontario, in my area of the province—are telling me, "No, we're not interested any more, because we not only look at the current tax burden"—which the Premier will argue is not out of

whack with other jurisdictions. It is, but the Premier is trying to argue otherwise. They look at taxes that are on the books now in terms of deferred taxes, because everyone knows the deficit and the debt are simply deferred taxes.

I would also include a benchmark concerning how the province spends the money that's transferred from the federal government. The NDP and the Premier, in his windup remarks to the throne speech, tried to once again—I noticed CUPE, when it had the MASH tent out front last week or the week before, once again fooled the public by saying the federal government has cut its transfer payments. Regardless of what stripe that government is, the facts are that the federal government has increased transfers for health care, education and social assistance at 5% a year. Those are increases every year. This government got 5% more from the federal government last year. It will get 5% more next year. It got 5% more this year. It's not a cut.

We saw this government transfer only 1% to health care and education and their broader public sector partners. The question is, what did the government do with the 4% in extra cash the federal government gave it to spend it on health care and education? It's an area where we badly need benchmarks because the federal government transfers that money, and always has, in large envelopes. The province puts that into general revenues and does not necessarily spend every cent it's given from the federal government on the purposes it was intended for; that is, health care and education. So I am supportive of the resolution.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I'm glad to rise in the House and respond to the comments that have been made by various members, particularly the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, who has put forth this resolution today.

I want to say that I have a number of objections to the putting forth of this resolution, not least of all because, as I look at these points that he is trying to make, I realize that this information is information that is often shared in this House. I've seen many of these figures brought forward by the Treasurer and by the Minister for Community and Social Services.

Let me say also that in the couple of hours that I took to prepare myself for the resolution today I was able to come up with quite a bit of information from the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. I'm willing to share this information with the honourable member, but in asking I found out also that any member of this House can get exactly the information that's on this.

In fact, what we see is a less-than-veiled attempt to make the government seem to look bad, but the government doesn't look bad. This information is available. When the members of the opposition have asked for this information, it's been given. Let me give a few of the statistics just to make sure that the honourable member—I realize he doesn't want to use up the good and valuable time of his research staff, but just to help him along, I'm willing to do this.

In terms of the number of people living below the poverty line, including the number of children, that figure can

easily be gotten by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. But in terms of children under the poverty line, it is 287,000.

Social assistance case loads were mentioned by the member for Ottawa-Rideau, but I bring it up again. It's a lamentable figure indeed: 1,164,100, which means that 14% of the population of Ontario are presently receiving benefits. That's totally unacceptable—unacceptable from this government and unacceptable, I'm sure, in the eyes of every member of this House. I could go further and say that 466,000 of those are children. How awful that 466,000 of our children, who are preparing to begin their lives and become people who are giving forth of their talents and their abilities, are in a situation where they're receiving these kinds of benefits.

On and on. I've even got the phone numbers of the ministries where you can get this information. Glad to share it with the member at any time.

I would like to draw attention to some of the comments that have been made. First, I will admit that the member for Carleton made a very excellent comment when he indicated that there needs to be a mechanism by which we monitor all government programs. He's absolutely right on that score. We need to introduce that and we need to do that soon. I am not at all convinced that, whatever government is in this place, we are able to monitor adequately the kinds of projects and programs that are set forth by the government. We don't do enough monitoring, and therefore we spend money needlessly. That needs to be changed, and I'd like to see that change.

The issue of food banks is one that has been bandied around on all corners of the House, but I'd like to speak to that issue.

It is one thing, as John Locke said, to show that a person is in error. It is quite another thing to put him in possession of the truth. We have heard the error that has been put forward by the members of the opposition. They have indicated that the food bank phenomenon is one that this government has not responded to. Let me talk about that.

I want to say that of all the members in this House I probably have the most pervasive knowledge of this issue. As an executive director of a food bank and multiservice agency in the 1980s, I went across this country and across this province speaking about the issue of hunger and its effects on the people in our province.

Let me tell you a bit of information, and perhaps it's history. On the day the election was called in 1985 I sat with people from across Ontario, all of us speaking to members of the opposition, and—dare I say it?—who should be speaking with us that day in committee room 1 in this Legislative Building? None other than the member for Bruce. He sat with us and he commiserated about the food banks; he commiserated about the effects of the recession; he commiserated about how there had to be change. That was in 1985, the day the election was called.

Five years went past, and in that time what did we see? We saw the greatest influx of revenues to any government in Ontario in that period of time, revenues that showed we could take care of these problems. But did we? No, we did

not. The government at the time, which was the Liberal government, did nothing to ensure that there was an eradication of these food banks. Now they throw over to us that the New Democratic Party has talked about eradicating food banks. We did say that and we stand by that, but what is the difference? This is 1992. Revenues have never been as low in the province of Ontario as they are right now. In five years they were never as high as under the Liberals; they have never been as low as under this government.

I say to you, Mr Speaker, that our commitment is clear. It takes the will, it takes time and it takes resources. Let me assure this House that the will is here. The government will, in time, if given the opportunity, be able to move on this issue if the resources are there. The resources will have to be there if we are to take this lamentable problem and end it. Our commitment is clear, our will is clear, and this government, if given time and resources, will do it.

1150

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I'm rising today to compliment my colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt for bringing forward this very important resolution.

During private members' hour we have an opportunity to speak on behalf of our constituents on issues which affect them and are important. My constituents in the riding of Oriole right now are feeling, I think, quite disappointed in the NDP government. They're cynical, they're angry and they're also fearful. They're disillusioned because they see every day announcements, proposals, ideas and statements which are complete reversals of the policies, principles and ideals that the Premier and the NDP stood for and espoused and talked about at great length with passion while they were in opposition and during the election campaign.

They've heard through question period the kind of heckling of, "That was then and this is now"; they've seen reversals on auto insurance; they've seen reversals on the principles from the NDP government in their approach to gambling in this province; they've seen reversals on a number of major policy initiatives and ideas; they've seen standards that the Premier felt so passionately about while he was in opposition just deteriorate to an all-time low. Members of the public thought that the Premier and his NDP government in fact would live up to the principles and ideals and they believed the rhetoric they heard. That's why they're disillusioned and they're cynical.

The reason they're angry is that they also believe that the NDP has no plan and no idea of what to do. Regularly they say to me, "Elinor, you know, sometimes maybe you could help them," and I say: "We do try to help. We try to help on committee; we try to help during private members' hour with resolutions; we try to give good ideas that hopefully the government will pay attention to." I say to them also: "Some of the things that the NDP said that they wanted to do when they were members of the official opposition are actually do-able. They are things that they could do."

This resolution is an example of the sort of thing that you said you wanted to do when you were in opposition.

This wouldn't cost you any money and this would be a way of restoring the faith and reducing the cynicism of the people in my constituency in Oriole and across the province.

This is recent. I don't go back very far. In the pre-budget consultations of 1990 in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs there was a dissent written by the NDP members. The members of that committee included the member for Rainy River, now the Attorney General, and the member for Hamilton East was substituting for him on this committee as well. This was a proposal:

"I for one have always been an advocate that the budget be clearly understood as not only an economic document but the link between the fiscal policy and the social policy of the government, because it is a clear indication of where the priorities of the government are."

What the NDP members of the finance and economic affairs committee pointed out in 1990 is that it is possible within a budget to have a report card of the state of the economy, not just with the hard numbers, the dollars, tax revenues coming in and government expenditures going out, but it also is possible—and this was an NDP idea—to include in the budget the social priority checklist, the report card of the state of the province, from the gathering of the statistics, that talks about the people. I would call this the people indicator. That's what they were really asking for.

A budget is about people, about where the government spends those tax dollars and where its priorities are. The proposal by my colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt gives the New Democrats an opportunity to do what they said they would do if they were in government. They can do it and it won't cost them any money. I'm quite distressed during this private members' hour to hear the reluctance and the rhetoric coming from the other side about why they wouldn't want to do something like this. I believe the member brought this forward in good faith as a suggestion to the New Democrats to do something that they believed in in opposition, that won't cost them any money and that they can do as a part of their budget presentation. It might restore some of the faith of the people of the province, who see in so many cases day after day the New Democrats doing the opposite of what they said they were going to do when they were in opposition and what they said they were going to do in their Agenda for People.

I also have something I want to say to the government members in this House. I've heard whining and complaining. I heard the member for Victoria-Haliburton saying, "Governing is hard because we're in a recession and we don't have any revenues for all the things we could do." The truth is—and I was there for five years—governing is very difficult. In buoyant and strong economic times, as revenues are coming in, let me tell you, you cannot possibly meet everyone's expectations. Never once in five years in government did anyone ever say, "You've given us enough." There's always something more that everyone would like to do. That's why how you set your priorities is so very important.

When we look at where you have spent the resources you have—and we know how precious they are—we criticize you because we believe your priorities are in the wrong direction. You are supporting the “haves.” You are giving money in higher wages to people who have jobs. You have been supporting union leadership in your policy at the expense of the workers. You are misguided.

Governing is about taking responsibility and being accountable for your policies. I would say to you, whether you are in good times, buoyancy, or whether you are in a recession, governing is difficult. It is about making responsible decisions. It is also about doing what you say you’re going to do. If you do what the member for Scarborough-Agincourt has suggested, that would be a step in the right direction.

1200

Mr Phillips: I would like to spend a moment to urge the entire House to support the resolution.

I will respond to a couple of comments that were made by the member for Hamilton Centre, who said he was disappointed because this is really what the NDP had proposed, not what the official opposition had proposed. I say to the member once again that we knocked ourselves out, the member for Carleton and others, trying to get you to recognize that your budget last year was all wrong. No one listened; we were ignored. If you won’t listen to us, listen to yourselves. This is your own resolution, this is what you said. This isn’t me. If I can’t get you to listen to the official opposition and the third party, I think I can get you to listen to yourselves. So stand up and vote in favour of this resolution.

I was actually quite amazed. I think one of the two members opposite said, “This is a thinly veiled attempt to embarrass us.” How could that be? We aren’t trying to embarrass you. We’re trying to hold up this recommendation that was made by two of your cabinet ministers when they were in the opposition. Surely it was a resolution designed to ensure, as my colleague said, that the people side of the budget is looked after.

Last, I think one of the members suggested: “If they want this information, they can phone around, they can ferret it out. They can get it.” The groups watching this, the groups that previously assumed the NDP was speaking for them, will be very interested in that answer: “You can phone for the information; it will not be provided.”

I look forward to the vote on the resolution. It is not a thinly veiled attempt to embarrass them. It is an attempt to get the people side of the budget included.

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Martin has moved resolution 6. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The House divided on Mr Phillips’s motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—35

Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Carter, Curling, Dadamo, Frankford, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Jordan, Mammoliti, Mancini, Martin, Miclash, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O’Connor, O’Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Owens, Perruzza, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Sola, Sorbara, Sterling, Turnbull, Villeneuve, White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Wilson (Simcoe West), Winninger, Wiseman, Witmer, Wood.

Nays—8

Cooper, Christopherson, Drainville, Haeck, Hayes, Huget, Mills, Waters.

The Deputy Speaker: All matters relating to private members’ public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair and the House will resume at 1:30 pm.

The House recessed at 1212.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CHILD CARE

Mr Charles Beer (York North): The provision of adequate and accessible child care in Ontario is in a state of crisis because of the policies of this government. While the government carries on with a lengthy consultation process about the future, families throughout this province are suffering day to day. For some reason this government has decided that process is more important than dealing with the real, hard issues facing the child care sector. Quite simply, families in this province increasingly cannot afford child care.

In Metropolitan Toronto we have been informed by the Metro Day Care Advisory Committee that six centres will be closing by August, that 7,000 children are on the waiting list for subsidy and that this government has left Metro with a deficit of \$13 million because it failed to pay the provincial portion of child care in 1991. This fact was confirmed by an independent analysis done by Coopers and Lybrand that both the province and Metro had requested. Their analysis showed that for 1991 the province failed to provide its 80% of the cost for child care in Metro Toronto.

There is no doubt we all want a quality child care system. What parents across the province are increasingly questioning is the government's child care priorities. At a public meeting in Etobicoke last night, parents expressed great frustration with how the government intends to spend the \$75 million fund it announced last fall.

I say again to the minister that there is a crisis of affordability and accessibility. If you have \$75 million available for child care, surely a significant percentage should be spent on improving subsidies, fees and spaces. Yet not one penny of this fund is dedicated to those purposes. Minister, will you state clearly your intention to provide Metro with the money it is owed?

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, in February you quietly announced that you had dropped the \$3.8-million program to spray for gypsy moths and the spruce budworm. Studies have shown that such factors as drought and tent caterpillar infestations have a great effect on forest health by weakening trees and making them vulnerable to premature death. The head of your ministry's southern Ontario forest unit said, "Gypsy moths might come in and be the straw that broke the camel's back."

Minister, people in the Simcoe county communities of Cumberland Beach, Thunder Beach, Wasaga Beach, to name but a few, believe your decision to cancel the spraying program was premature and will seriously threaten the future of forest management in Ontario.

Your decision to cancel the spraying programs, your decision to close tree nurseries in Midhurst, Thunder Bay, Chapleau and Gogama, and your decision to substantially

reduce the number of tree seedlings planted this year prove that you are not committed to good forest management in the province.

When you announced these cutbacks and closures you said the money for these programs would be reallocated to "higher-priority initiatives." Minister, people are angry and they want you, in your capacity as the provincial government trustee of Ontario forests, to tell us what you think is a higher-priority initiative than protecting our trees.

CONSUMER EDUCATION AWARDS

Mr Norm Jamison (Norfolk): April 27 to May 2 is National Consumer Week in Ontario. In honour of this important week the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations will today be presenting the 1992 Consumer Educator of the Year awards.

I am very pleased to congratulate Iris Hukezalie of Simcoe, a constituent in my riding of Norfolk who will be receiving the volunteer consumer education award for her outstanding contribution to consumer awareness in Ontario. Ms Hukezalie is being recognized for her work as a volunteer information counsellor at the Haldimand-Norfolk Information Centre and her many years of service in consumer education. During the past six years people in my riding have had the pleasure of her helpful and accommodating responses to countless consumer inquiries. She is also involved in the preparation of a weekly news column, called Ask Us, covering a wide range of consumer issues. She has demonstrated a year-in, year-out dedication to keeping her community informed of consumer issues and to promoting consumer education in Haldimand-Norfolk.

The professional consumer education award goes to Alan Auerbach of Waterloo, who is being recognized for his contributions to consumer education as assistant professor of psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University. His Consumer Watch column in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record has served as an important consumer information and education tool for many years.

I would like to recognize the recipients of the fourth annual consumer education awards of excellence.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): In my four and a half years in this House representing the riding of Brampton North, I've seen and heard things that ranged through the profound, curious and outrageous. Last Wednesday I was angry, in fact disgusted, when the Minister of Health issued a three-page press release and in one brief sentence rejected the proposal for the Chinguacousy health services centre. I'm outraged that many years of effort by many people have been dismissed in one brief sentence in a general press release.

I've been raising this matter with the minister inside and outside of this place since the day she took over the Health portfolio. She is very aware of the importance of this project to the people of Brampton. Notwithstanding her assurances, given both in writing and in responses to

questions in this House, the minister to date has not even had the courtesy to provide an explanation for her decision to myself, my colleague the member for Brampton South, or the people of Brampton, for that matter. I'm angered that the Minister of Health feels absolutely no responsibility to explain her decision or her rationale to the people of our community.

The former Liberal government gave this project the green light to proceed, and this project has been in limbo since the NDP took office. The minister has demonstrated contempt for members of the community board. Attempts by that board to get in touch with her have not been acknowledged. She hasn't even had the courtesy to return phone calls. They've been trying to work with her, and I have a stack of letters that have gone unanswered. The board is frustrated about its inability to get even the courtesy of a response from this minister.

The people of Brampton clearly deserve an explanation. I would say the government will be held accountable for its absolute and blatant disregard for the needs of the people of Brampton. They have erred by treating Brampton in this way, with that amount of disrespect. I say in conclusion that the ministry and the Minister of Health have declared war on the people of Brampton.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Today is Public Transit Day. The NDP made promises on public transit to the people of Ontario in the last election. Unfortunately, since then all we've seen is a reannouncement of previously planned programs. Where is the plan for expanding GO Transit service, as promised during the election campaign? Where is the promised increase in the province's share of TTC funding?

The Toronto Transit Commission is one of the least-subsidized rapid transit systems in North America. Today, cutbacks in service and reduced routes and frequency have made public transit less convenient and more difficult to use. We have recently seen two large fare hikes for the TTC at a time when people can least afford it. The lack of integration between the many systems within the GTA means travellers are often inconvenienced. Individuals can and do make a difference in the fight against air pollution, first and foremost by leaving their cars at home and using public transit. But the government has the responsibility to provide a convenient and affordable system.

I call on the government to change its priorities. Use the millions you have planned for public opinion polling and the NDP propaganda phone line for the public transit system where it will benefit the people, not the politicians. Support the environment. Support public transit.

TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): It's my pleasure to bring to the attention of the House a recent decision by a municipality in my riding to repeal a resolution designating it as English only.

First, let me give you some background. In January 1989, Zorra township was one of the first municipalities to declare itself as an English-only township in protest of

Quebec's Bill 101, the controversial law that banned languages other than French on outdoor commercial signs. While I disagreed with the township's action, I certainly appreciated and understood that it did so out of a sense of frustration. Their English-only resolution gained them national media coverage, including an interview on the CBC's nightly news program *The Journal*.

Recently, two township residents, John and Susan Langlois, approached council and asked them to reconsider the previous council's resolution as a gesture towards national unity. The couple said they felt that on the 125th anniversary of Confederation, in their words, "Maybe we should be doing something significant for Canada." This couple acted on principle, and I believe they deserve recognition and congratulations for their actions. Unfortunately, this repeal did not receive the same type of national media attention, especially considering the current round of constitutional talks.

Here we have a township council in the heartland of Ontario publicly expressing its desire to promote a spirit of openness and national unity. I think that's the message all of us should be spreading across this country.

I hope all members of this House will join me in congratulating Zorra township council for its demonstration of goodwill and encourage other municipalities to rescind their English-only resolutions.

1340

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I rise this afternoon to express my deep concern about the lack of action on the part of this government to allocate funding for municipal employment programs announced in November 1990.

As the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party stated in her question to the Treasurer on Tuesday of this week, this fund "would, in partnership with municipalities, provide training and support to people receiving social assistance to get them back to work." The Treasurer was either unwilling or unable to answer her question about the status of this \$54-million fund.

In 1990, 1991, and again in 1992, the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton has set aside approximately \$1.5 million as the local contribution to this program. This money could have been allocated for many other purposes, but it has been consistently set aside for training on the strength of assurances made over and over again over a period of two years by the Minister and the Ministry of Community and Social Services that Ottawa-Carleton's portion of the \$54 million would be \$1.1 million. The money was forthcoming. It was on its way.

They have 800 people on the waiting list in Ottawa-Carleton. How long is the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton expected to believe that the cheque is in the mail?

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I rise today regarding a matter that is of deep concern to constituents in south Simcoe county.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has failed to respond to repeated requests made by hundreds of former Tecumseth township residents who live west of Highway 27, in an area that was incorporated into the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury by the previous Liberal government. These residents have nothing in common with Bradford West Gwillimbury and they have respectfully requested to be placed where they rightfully belong, in the town of New Tecumseth. While I appreciate that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has listened to their concerns, he has yet to respond specifically to issues raised by myself and local residents when we met with the minister last November.

This April marks the one-year anniversary of a public meeting that was held in the hamlet of Bond Head. At that meeting, an overwhelming 90% of residents expressed their desire to remain in New Tecumseth and that New Tecumseth's easterly boundary should extend to Highway 27. Hundreds of Bond Head and Newton Robinson residents signed a petition so that they might be able to preserve their traditions and their historic ties to the former township of Tecumseth, which is now part of the town of New Tecumseth.

Minister, the people in my riding who reside on the west side of Highway 27 feel neglected by your government. It's time for you to take action to redress a very serious wrongdoing resulting from the forced restructuring imposed by the Liberal government.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): Sexual assault is something society doesn't have to tolerate. We must work towards the prevention and elimination of coercive sexual behaviour.

The Sarnia-Lambton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre was founded in 1982 and incorporated as a non-profit charitable foundation in 1986. Recently, the centre changed its name to the Sexual Assault Survivors Centre of Sarnia-Lambton. The change in name emphasizes the need for ongoing support and counselling, sometimes years after the crisis of sexual assault has taken place. Problems stemming from sexual assault aren't always noticed immediately, and for many victims the most pain comes with flashbacks of earlier abuse.

Helping victims of sexual assault was made easier in Sarnia-Lambton with funding from the Solicitor General. The funding helped the centre increase its staff and services and helped it move to better and more accessible quarters. The centre has also increased its manpower by training more volunteers for its crisis line, a grass-roots delivery of services with people helping people.

Sexual assault is a crime of violence, control and humiliation, not a crime of passion. It is clear that we must not only promote reform in attitudes and beliefs about coercive sexual behaviour, but also work towards the prevention of sexual assault and abuse. I therefore commend the Sexual Assault Survivors Centre of Sarnia-Lambton, its board, staff and many volunteers for providing a vital service to our community and the victims of sexual assault.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Statements by ministers.

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): Where are the ministers?

Interjection: There are no ministers.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): We do have time set aside for statements from the ministers. We know there are many things occurring—

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat, please. There is nothing out of order. It is time for oral questions.

Mr Charles Beer (York North): Mr Speaker, I find it rather surprising that we would not have heard today from the Minister of Education with a statement respecting the Ottawa school board situation.

The Speaker: Is this the member's first question?

Mr Beer: I wonder if we might ask you to use your good offices, if you could invite the minister to say a few words on this matter.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. The member should be aware of the standing orders. There is a time allotted for ministers to make statements. It is hardly the Speaker's responsibility to ensure that ministers make statements. It is time for oral questions.

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise under standing order 16 to indicate to you that the standing orders provide that this is a time for questions to be put to the ministers of the crown. We have been told that there will be fully eight people not here, leaving early or arriving late. There is a series of others who are not yet here.

Standing order 16 states that you have the right to adjourn the House when grave disorder occurs. I can only suggest, not that I wish to be outrageously suggestive, but if the Premier in particular, who has found time only to be here one day this week, at which time he arrived in time to leave basically—he fielded questions for about 40 minutes and then left—if he cannot find the time to visit us as the opposition to field the questions, then perhaps grave disorder is the only way we can bring enough influence in this place to allow us to ask the questions.

I raise this at this time only because we are fully running up to one of the most important times in the history of Ontario. There is a budget to be given next week. There are questions which are important to the future economically, socially and politically for Ontario. The Premier has strategized to be away from this place. That can only create in my—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Bruce, I certainly am aware of the concern he expresses and indeed quite understand that concern. I trust that the member realizes it is not within the Speaker's power to compel anyone's attendance. If there is some three-party understanding that certain ministers would be in attendance, that's an agreement reached among the parties. At this point I have no choice but to continue with the routine proceedings. I cannot compel the attendance of any particular minister, or any members at all. It is time for oral questions.

1350

ORAL QUESTIONS

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I'd like to begin today with a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about the politics of principle. I'm going to keep this very simple because I think it's a very central point. Over the last couple of days there have been a number of what I think could only be described as authoritative reports that the Rae government is seriously contemplating, and in fact according to the Treasurer in a CKCO interview yesterday has already decided, certain elements of a gaming package, to be announced in next Thursday's budget.

My question to the minister responsible for gaming and lotteries, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, is very simply and very directly this: Two years ago the now Premier said: "The casino plays on greed, the sense of the ultimate chance, the hope against hope that the spin of the wheel or the shoot of the dice will produce instant wealth, instant power, instant gratification." He went on to roar his disapproval, on principle, on high socialist principle.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Conway: My question to the minister responsible for gaming and lotteries is, what's changed? What does the Premier know today that did not inform these comments based on high principle of two years ago?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I think it would be prudent for the member to ask the Premier to answer for himself on that issue.

I would say that in the context of decision-making on casino gambling and other forms of gaming, there has been, as is very clear by now, quite a bit of discussion at the caucus and cabinet table about this, and we are looking at it in the context of the changes that have happened in this economy over the past few years—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Ms Churley: —particularly upon receiving requests from border towns and areas that have been hurt very much by free trade and the high dollar and the GST and are looking for various remedies to try and cope with the problem.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Will the minister take her seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Could the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Churley: You want a recess over there.

Mr Conway: My supplementary is to the minister responsible for gaming and lotteries in this collectivity that is the NDP government of Ontario. We're talking about the New Democrats, on a matter of high and fundamental

principle. Not only did the member for York South roar his disagreement and his disapproval on principle two years ago, but this, the party of Woodsworth and Stephen Lewis and Michele Landsberg, is also the party—I mean, Stephen Lewis and Michele Landsberg on the subject of gaming and what the NDP would never do?

Let me ask as a supplementary to the New Democratic minister responsible: Two years ago her colleagues the minister of finance and the minister of justice said—in the first instance the now Treasurer said, "When we reach the point in this province that we've got to rely on casino gambling, you will know that this province is bankrupt," and the Attorney General two years ago said on a matter of principle—

The Speaker: Would the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr Conway: —that he fundamentally rejected this kind of gaming legislation because it picked the pockets of people whose pockets ought not to be picked. I say to the minister responsible, on a matter of high principle—

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Conway: —the NDP prophets and the saints in politics, what's changed? What's happened to your principles?

Hon Ms Churley: I say to the member for Renfrew North that it was a fine moral speech he just gave in a preamble to his question. I guess it is his position—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Churley: His position has been made very clear, and I appreciate that at least one of the members from across the way has apparently given his opinion on the subject, because I notice others are basically sitting on the fence, wanting it both ways. I would say to the member that this province—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member take her seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Has the minister concluded her response?

Hon Ms Churley: In the context of looking at this complex issue, we have looked at and are continuing to look at this in the context of social benefits and social problems and costs that might be associated. We're looking at it in the context of charitable organizations and the horse racing industry. There's an enormous amount of gambling that already goes on in this province that's been accepted for a long time. That's the reality of the situation. We are weighing all of these options and looking at it in a very balanced way.

Mr Conway: I'm having difficulty with this lecture on situational ethics because my question is not about financial exigencies; my question is about high principle. One of the things about having been in this Legislature for 16½ years is having heard from Stephen Lewis, Michele Landsberg, Ross McClellan, the Premier, the Treasurer and

a host of other saints and prophets in politics that the NDP is purer and better than the rest, and that one test and one proof of their purity is they would never, ever enter the world of casino gambling, on a matter of high principle. My question remains, what's changed? What's happened to your principles? Is this yet another pathetic example of what we've seen in the last few months, whether it was the Shelley Martel affair or the vote fuss about auto insurance, that the NDP has no principles?

The Speaker: Would the member conclude his supplementary.

Mr Conway: They're desperately floundering about in an incompetent way, trying to manage a desperate economic situation, and they have no—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

Hon Ms Churley: I think there was a question there somewhere hidden in the lecture. I'm not one of the saints the member mentioned, so I would just like to reiterate again that the context of the economy all across Canada and across North America has changed over the past couple of years. Our government, along with other governments in other provinces and other states, is looking at a variety of revenue-generating policies and options. We are doing that along with Quebec and other areas. I think it would be very foolish of this government not to look at those kinds of options when we're in a deep recession and when other jurisdictions are looking at those kinds of options.

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): Perhaps my colleague went too far in saying that party has no principles. You might just say it's a party of flex principles these days and things are all over the place. Let me say to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations that it's very surprising a government that thought of itself as being for the people, of the people and a part of the people that elected it is now going to bring about fundamental change in this province without at least talking to those very people who elected it, on at least one occasion, to discuss this very fundamental change.

I want to ask the minister if she realizes the impact casino gambling will have on charitable gaming, which generates approximately \$1.1 billion in revenues for charitable foundations. Does she understand that this will have a negative impact, as has been cited by many people? If she doesn't understand that, what impact studies has she conducted to tell her what kind of economic problems will be associated with charities if she goes ahead with casino gambling? Have you those impact studies, and are you prepared to release them now?

1400

Hon Ms Churley: I think it would be within the Liberal caucus's best interests to stay quiet when one of its own members is asking a question. It was very difficult indeed for me to hear the question, but I will answer to the best of my ability, considering how little I heard.

The issue the member raised, I believe, was around charitable organizations and the impact that casino gambling and other forms of gambling may have on them. I think it is a very good question and it is something I have

expressed time and time again and I have concerns about. That is one of the areas we are indeed looking at, and I can assure the member that there will be no decision made in this whole area without some kind of consultation with those groups built into the process. I can guarantee the member that.

Mr Cordiano: That is fine for the minister to say that, but we want to see those impact studies, because she hasn't realized that Ontario's rural and agricultural communities depend on the horse racing industry for their very survival. The horse racing industry is a \$2.2-billion industry which employs about 54,000 people across the province, generating about \$85 million to the provincial treasury through racetrack taxes.

Madam Minister, I ask you again, do you have impact studies with specific reference to the horse racing industry, the kind of impact, which is bound to be negative, this will have on it? Can we see those impact studies?

Hon Ms Churley: I would like to start by reminding the member that gambling in Ontario, indeed gambling in general, is not a new issue that just popped up last month. Gambling is a billion-dollar industry in this province, and as the member pointed out, there are horse racing and charitable institutions that depend on charitable gaming. So gambling is not new.

There are all kinds of illegal gambling going on right now, and all that money is going underground, not into helping with our health care system and our social programs. It is happening illegally out there, and one has to look at that. Of course I am aware of the concerns that people in the horse racing industry have pointed out and of course I will be talking to them, but I believe there can be solutions worked out together that would deal with these kinds of problems, and that is what I am in the process of doing right now.

Mr Cordiano: It's obvious that the minister and this government are prepared to roll the dice and to crap out on this whole issue. You haven't got any impact studies or any kind of economic analysis that is going to tell you what is going to be realized from casino gambling. You have no idea what kind of revenues will be generated. We haven't seen those. You have no idea of the kind of impact this is going to have in communities with respect to crime rates rising. In fact, Metro Chief of Detectives Charles Maywood stated yesterday that "the province must ensure that...taxpayers won't be burdened with the (policing) costs" associated with what it is planning to bring forward. "There is no sense in making \$190 million and expecting Metro to lose millions in policing costs."

I ask the minister again, what kind of impact studies does she have with respect to rising crime rates? We have seen that occur in places like Atlantic City. We don't want the negative societal impacts that will result in casino gambling if we are not prepared to deal with them. Is the minister prepared to tell us what kind of studies she has conducted, and is she prepared to bring in her plan to this House and not go through some undemocratic process by bringing it through the back door, an order in council to bring about casino gambling in this province? Are you

prepared to discuss it and fully debate it in this House, Madam Minister?

Hon Ms Churley: As I think people heard quite a bit yesterday, no final decision has been made on this. I can assure the member that once a decision is made it will be announced in this House. There will be an opportunity for discussion, and there certainly will be ample opportunity for those groups that may be negatively affected, and positively affected, to consult with us.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): My question is to the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier or, as he is becoming known, the Donald Trump of provincial politics. Mr Treasurer, can you give us one good reason why you are considering casino gambling, other than to fill your empty pockets with a few poker chips? Could you give us one reason?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The member for Renfrew North referred to me as a saint and the member for Oakville South referred to me as Donald Trump, so you'll forgive me, Mr Speaker, if I appear to have an identity crisis today.

I should say to the member that I think there's an obligation on government to look at various sources of revenues. We indicated a long time ago that when the Treasury Board was created we would look at a number of non-revenue sources. Not solely that; we're looking at ways to control expenditures and ways to raise revenues. I don't think it would make sense to rule out these kinds of potential non-tax revenues. I would have thought the member opposite would agree with that, and that we have an obligation to at least explore those avenues of revenues.

Mr Carr: What I will do, Mr Treasurer, is offer you another source of revenue. Last year, Dylex alone, in two days, put into the coffers of the provincial government \$800,000. Close to \$1 million in two Sunday shopping days went into your pocket as Treasurer.

If you are looking at new sources of revenue, if we are to really believe you, and if Dylex can put \$800,000 in two short days, will you consider opening up Sunday shopping in the province so we can get these people back to work and get some more prosperity in the province? Will you consider it, if you really mean it?

Hon Mr Laughren: It's truly remarkable to see the opposition united in favour of Sunday shopping. I guess that's the position now of both opposition parties, and that both opposition parties are opposed to casinos and any other form of legalized gambling in the province that's not there now. I would simply hope the opposition members of this assembly consulted with a lot of the border communities, for example, before they came down with their hard-line positions on these matters.

If I could get back to the question that was asked on Sunday shopping, because I think it was a good question, I think the member would appreciate the fact that the whole question of Sunday shopping is one we as a government have monitored very closely. We're very much aware of

the change in the attitude of the public vis-à-vis Sunday shopping, but I can tell the member opposite that there has been no change in the position of the government regarding Sunday shopping.

Mr Carr: I sometimes wonder if the Treasurer is playing with a full deck, when on the one hand he says, "We'll listen to the border communities when it comes to casinos," but when it comes to Sunday shopping it's definitely selective listening.

The statistics are that thousands of retail workers are out of jobs in the province. Border communities are desperate for some help. You need cash, as we all know. Mr Treasurer, the question is very simple. All three of those things could be solved by having Sunday shopping.

I'll go over them again. Thousands of retail workers are out of jobs. Border communities are desperate for some help; that's number two. Number three, the bottom line—this is the most serious one—is that you need cash. Will you today give a commitment to consider opening up on Sunday, which would solve those three problems and bring back to the province some of the prosperity that we desperately need?

1410

Hon Mr Laughren: First of all, I don't think the member meant to imply that opening Sunday would solve all those problems.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: I don't believe that even Tories have that simplistic a view of the world. I really don't. I have trouble believing that he thinks opening stores on Sundays would solve our problem of the deficit, of revenues, of expenditures. While I know the member opposite accused me of not playing with a full deck, I really think anyone who would suggest that opening Sunday would solve this province's economic problems is himself not playing with a completely full deck.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I'd like to continue with the questioning we've been raising with respect to the funding in this province by gambling. Madam Minister, you've billed yourself as the voice of caution at the cabinet table, and there and in this House you've said that no final decision has been made with respect to gambling casinos and video lotteries in this province. Blackjack Bob, of course, says the same thing. He says there's no final decision. Yet in an interview with CKCO, Bugsy Floyd says the NDP has made a decision on some aspects of the gambling package. Minister, with two-to-one odds in your favour, the ones we've just listed, can you tell us what your government has decided on so far?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I think the member would have to address what the Treasurer said directly to the Treasurer. I certainly won't answer for him. I will tell you that I don't think it's any news today what the decisions that have been

made to date are. They've been in the press, I think, fully exposed. There have been discussions at the cabinet table and at caucus around the options around different varieties of gaming and gambling. We have discussed in some detail various options. No final decision has been made. Some of the issues that have been raised in this House I think are concerns that we in fact have looked at as well, in particular—I think you raised it last week and it was raised today—the horse racing industry and the impacts it will have, the charitable organizations and the impacts there. Those kinds of issues—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Churley: Yes, I will. Thank you. Those kinds of issues are under discussion right now, and in fact, yes, I do bring caution around these things. We have to look very carefully and closely at the impacts it will have.

Mr Tilson: The roulette wheel continues to turn round and round, whether it's to Bugsy Floyd, whether it's to Blackjack Bob. We don't know what you're doing. You're saying decisions have been made. I don't know what you're talking about, because decisions are being made conflicting members from the members of your cabinet.

As a result of the minister's policies the future of amateur hockey clubs in this province is already in jeopardy because of your position. Charitable organizations and other recreational sports teams will also be losers when you're putting forward your casino policies and your gambling policies as to how you're going to fund this province and how those organizations are going to be affected.

Minister, knowing that, and you've expressed that you know that, can you tell us what assurance you can give these organizations that they won't be left out in the cold as a result of your gambling policies?

Hon Ms Churley: I've already said in answer to another question today that it's certainly our intention to consult with the horse racing industry—I've already done some of that—and to consult with the charitable organizations when this decision is made and in the process of making it.

Mr Tilson: We keep waiting for the impact studies. I can tell you that many of the charitable organizations are waiting for you to consult with them and they're very worried as to what you're doing to their organizations and the work they're doing in this province because of your gambling policies.

My final supplementary question is that it's certainly no longer faith, hope and charity in Ontario; it's clearly going to be faith, hope and gambling. Minister, I'll make it as simple as I can. You've got a 50-50 chance, as a result of all the conflicting statements that are being made over there, a 50-50 chance of getting this right. Yes or no? Will revenues from gambling casinos be directed somewhere other than the Treasurer's jackpot?

Hon Ms Churley: I have no comment on the amount of revenue this would bring in to the Treasurer. I would suggest you direct that question to the Treasurer or the Minister of Revenue.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who is now responsible for making Ontario the Las Vegas of the north. My question revolves around activities you are prohibiting among those in the volunteer sector while you appear to be moving, as a government, into a very major area of gambling in the province. I ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations why she and her ministry are removing licences from Junior B, Junior C, Junior D hockey teams; baseball teams; football teams; soccer teams, and other athletic teams across Ontario that provide young people an opportunity to engage in constructive, good recreational activities and that provide entertainment in cities, towns and villages across this province. Why are you doing this? Why are you penalizing these groups at the very time you're moving into the full field of gambling in Ontario?

Hon Ms Churley: I'm glad the member asks that question because this has been a difficult area. I'd like to remind the ex-minister sitting across the floor, who used to be in government on this side of the floor, that in 1987 your government sent a bulletin to all municipalities describing government policy at that time, interpreting what was charitable under the Criminal Code, and it was your interpretation that did not include those kinds of teams you mention today. It was your government.

When I took over this ministry, there was a state of confusion out there because of a directive from your government, which I have been trying to address. Because of the confusion out there, we sent a follow-up directive, but in the meantime I'm doing something your government didn't do: I'm reviewing the eligibility of those very hockey teams and I have extended the licences that have already been out there.

Mr Bradley: That will be news to the teams in Ontario that have already lost their licences as a result of what's been happening over the past year under your ministry. What you're doing now is engaging in competition with those various teams across Ontario by moving into new areas of endeavour such as blackjack tables and all the things we have in Las Vegas which have been alluded to in the news media in recent days; the trial balloon you've sent up.

Because there have been people who have lost those licences, I'm asking the minister, will she agree today in the House that she will not withdraw any further licences from junior athletic teams across Ontario and will she reinstate those licences which her government has withdrawn over the past several months so those teams can continue to operate next year and once again be the focus of community activity? Will she undertake not to get into direct competition with these people, and then with the money she derives make it appear as though it's a gift from the government instead of something they have raised themselves?

Hon Ms Churley: When this issue came to my attention—the massive confusion out there because of the interpretation of the Criminal Code—I sent out a directive. Because of the concerns expressed to me by the teams and

by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation on several occasions, I sent a directive to the municipalities asking them to extend those licences until the end of the season so we would have time to review the eligibility of these teams under the Criminal Code. We are now in the process of doing that and we will be giving an answer after that review is complete. We did extend those licences until the end of the season.

1420

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): My question is again to the Minister of Education, concerning the strike at the Ottawa Board of Education and the Carleton Board of Education. Mr Minister, we were given a time in this Legislature, that as of 11 am today the Education Relations Commission would claim there was jeopardy with regard to the Ottawa Board of Education's strike. That time has passed. Are you going to introduce legislation this afternoon to legislate the teachers back?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): No. The negotiations are continuing as we speak and I'm advised that they are at a point that we could describe as being intense. I think it's appropriate to let those negotiations continue.

Mr Sterling: I tell you, the people who are intense are the parents and the students in the Ottawa-Carleton area. I'm sick of this minister coming to this Legislature and making excuses for the failure of the two parties to come to a conclusion. The students in Ottawa-Carleton, the 27,000 of them, are still on the street. Even if this impasse between the Ottawa Board of Education and the teachers is resolved, we still have 15,000 young people on the street in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I understand, Mr Minister, that later today you're going to travel to Europe. Mr Minister, I would ask you to stay here. We are willing to sit this afternoon to pass this legislation. We are willing to come back tomorrow to pass this legislation. Will you bring legislation not only to take the students off the street in Ottawa, but take the students off the street in the Carleton board area, put them all back to work now, and leave the negotiations after the kids are back in school? Mr Minister, we cannot wait any longer. We need some action right now.

Hon Mr Silipo: Let me just say to the member, as I've already indicated publicly, that whether I leave to represent the government overseas this afternoon or not will depend on what happens in the negotiations. If there isn't a solution reached, I won't be leaving. I've indicated that.

The situation the member has described I think we all understand is there, but I'm sure he would be the first to recognize that if negotiations are at the point they are, the last thing we would want to do is stop that process. I think he would understand that. Beyond the acrimony he chooses to put into his question, I think that's something we could all understand and should all understand.

In terms of the jeopardy issue, the Education Relations Commission has not issued that advice to me. How that process works is also something the member knows quite

well. Quite clearly I've indicated and I can reiterate here that the issue of the school year will be looked at very seriously in my approval of the modified school year whenever this issue is resolved.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): My question is to the Minister of Revenue and it's in regard to market value reassessment. As you know, Mr Speaker, Metropolitan Toronto residents pay high and unfair property taxes, depending on where they live and the age of their homes. In my community of Downsview over 90% of residents would benefit from property tax reductions once reassessment is implemented. Madam Minister, can you tell this Parliament and the people of Downsview and of Metro what exactly your ministry, the Ministry of Revenue, is doing with respect to market value reassessment in Metro?

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): I'd like to thank the member for the question. As we all know, this question has been around for a long time. I guess I could update the Legislature in telling it that, as you all know, Metro Toronto council passed a resolution asking the Ontario government to take the necessary steps to implement market value assessment in a reassessment plan.

At the Ministry of Revenue, we are presently preparing an impact study that is scheduled to be delivered to Metro council in July 1992. After that impact study is delivered and Metro council has had the opportunity to look at it, to discuss it and all the councillors also have the opportunity to meet with their residents and discuss it, they will then make a decision as to whether or not they want to proceed with reassessment in Toronto.

Mr Perruzza: By way of supplementary, I want to thank the minister for her reassurance that Metro market value reassessment is on track.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Treasurer. In the Ontario Fiscal Outlook document, Treasurer, you indicated that you would be expecting transfer payments from the federal government of \$6.4 billion. Since then you've indicated, publicly I think, that you expect another \$585 million in fiscal stabilization money this fiscal year, the one we're just entering. I understand also that you've indicated publicly there may be another \$600 million in fiscal stabilization programs that are coming to the province. I wonder if the Treasurer could confirm for the House today whether he is expecting the transfer payments from the federal government to include the \$585 million, or the \$585 million plus the additional \$600 million.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): That's an important question. It is quite accurate that the province of Ontario put in its claim under the stabilization program for \$585 million. That was for 1990-91. On top of that, for the year 1991-92, because of the decline in economic activity in this province and the subsequent decline in revenues, which is built into the stabilization agreement, we entered as well a further claim for 1991-92, if I

recall the exact number, of slightly over \$600 million, but the member is basically correct. Since the \$585 million did not flow to us as a province in 1991-92, we are now entitled to both the \$585 million and the \$600 million and change in 1992-93. That's correct.

Mr Phillips: That's an important number, I might add, because in your original fiscal outlook, as you remember, Treasurer, this roughly \$1.2 billion was not included. I think \$585 million and \$600 million is about \$1.2 billion. I might parenthetically make the comment that I think that means that from the federal government—I hate to use the term the Premier uses, “the absconding debtor”—you're looking at about a 25% increase in your grants, which I welcome. It will be very helpful in the deficit projections.

In addition, as I look at your fiscal plan, you were quite pessimistic, I think, on personal income tax and the corporate tax. The federal budget came out subsequent to your January document and it was considerably more optimistic about revenues from corporate taxes, personal taxes and retail sales tax. Have you also had a chance now to look at that federal number and to upgrade and move up your estimates to a more optimistic number on your revenues from those three sources?

Hon Mr Laughren: I'm not sure I understand the entire context of the member's question, but in terms of having had a chance now to look at the federal government's budget numbers and its anticipated revenues—and I don't say this in a partisan way at the federal government—I really believe its numbers are overly optimistic for the fiscal year 1992-93. We would certainly not adjust our numbers upwards based on the federal budget numbers. I just don't think that's real. I think the recovery is slower than most people anticipated it would be, even slower than the federal government thought it would be. So, no, we have not adjusted our numbers upwards based on that.

1430

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, one year ago you proudly announced in this Legislature that your ministry would be developing and implementing a sustainable forestry program for the province. You stated that new initiatives would involve increased research on forest ecosystems and silviculture and a greater public consultation on forest policy management. How does your recent announcement to eliminate the planting of 45 million tree seedlings fit into your sustainable forestry program?

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): The member will know that we have indeed moved ahead on the sustainable forestry program. We have the independent audit panel that is carrying out its work in the boreal forest. It will be reporting this spring in an interim report, and a final report will in be this fall. The independent panel on comprehensive forestry policy for the province is carrying on its consultation work across the province and will be reporting at the end of this year.

We also have instituted an old-growth strategy and we have saved red and white pines from harvest at 10 sites

across northeastern Ontario. We have a panel of laypeople from across North America analysing the policy with regard to old growth, with the assistance of a scientific committee. We also, as you indicated, have budgeted a significant amount of money for research into ecosystem management, particularly looking at alternatives to the use of chemicals in the forest for managing the plantations that we have.

The current fiscal situation led us to a position of having to determine whether we should discontinue those efforts in sustainable forestry and move into an ecosystem approach or whether we should allocate funds to that and in the short term have to take away some of the funds we would have liked to have used for increased seedling plantations or maintaining the amounts we have planted in the past. It was a very difficult decision, but one that is a short-term one and we hope will help us to ensure sustainable forestry for the future.

Mr McLean: Mr Speaker, through you to the minister, you cannot tell me or the people of this province that by not planting 45 million trees you're instituting a sustainable forestry program. That's certainly just not so. In your announcement you've cut 770 nursery jobs. There are an additional 1,500 workers on part-time who will lose their jobs; they will not be planting trees. Many of them are students and they need money to go to school in the fall. These people are all losing their jobs.

You're talking about the land that they're now ready to plant. It's not being planted; the 45 million trees are not being planted. You're closing down nurseries and you're telling us you have a sustainable forestry program. I cannot understand. Your Minister of Northern Development doesn't agree with you on this policy.

What are you telling the people of the province you're going to do with those 45 million seedlings that are not being planted and the land that is sitting there not being used?

Hon Mr Wildman: The member is quite right that we would prefer to be planting more seedlings as part of the tree planting program. I'm sure when he asks what we are going to do with the seedlings that he's aware of Operation Tree Plant, which has been very successful. We have already allocated 30 million seedlings under that program. We don't have enough seedlings for southern Ontario for the demand.

Land owners, municipalities, first nations and other groups have got involved with the plantation and it's been very successful. We would prefer to be planting the numbers that we planted in the past, the 165 million that we planted last year. We can't do that ourselves and so the public has got involved. We are greening this province as we've never done before and we aren't going to bury those seedlings as previous governments have done.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): My question is to the Minister of Housing. As you know, public awareness has been heightened in the recent past on things like energy conservation and efficiency and water conservation and efficiency. Some of my constituents have approached me with their concerns on the effect of Bill 121 on energy

efficiency. Can the minister tell me and the House whether Bill 121 provides any incentives for energy conservation?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I'd be pleased to answer that question. Bill 121 in fact does take account of progress that we hope will be made in our existing buildings on energy conservation and it permits a landlord who has 2% within guideline to make renovations without any question, to apply for above-guideline increases in order to undertake energy renovations.

Mr Cooper: As most people are aware, Kitchener is consistently having water problems and there is always a discussion about whether we have enough groundwater or not. One of the things that's been a concern of mine in my riding is we have people going around talking about retrofitting toilets and putting in conservation devices.

What we're getting from the landlords right now is: "What's our incentive to do this? Because we can't pass the cost on. The other thing is, our rents will probably end up being lower because of our lower operating costs." Can the minister tell me, does the landlord get to keep any of these savings in his operating costs?

Hon Ms Gigantes: Specifically on the question of conservation measures undertaken for water, most of the measures that will be undertaken by landlords will fortunately not be expensive ones, and the benefits they reap can be theirs totally, up to the point at which the absolute cost of water on a year-to-year basis would decrease. At that stage there would be a sharing between the landlord and tenant, which we feel will provide an incentive both for landlords to undertake the work and for tenants to help the landlord by water conservation measures undertaken by the tenants personally.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I too have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. This morning I sponsored a media conference with the Ontario Tree Seedling Growers Association and the Ontario Silvicultural Contractors Association to talk about this very issue we've been discussing today.

I'm wondering, in response to the question from the member for Simcoe East, if the minister could explain to me why when we had thousands of trees planted in this province on Earth Day, yesterday—1,200, I believe, in Toronto; I saw the Premier out front talking about the greening of Ontario and all the wonderful things—the minister seems to want to confuse this issue slightly. What we're talking about in gross terms is that, whether the government plants the trees or through Operation Tree Plant they plant the trees, we're still going to be planting 45 million fewer trees. Would you like to square that with your environmental view?

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): I know the member's commitment to sustainability in the province and so I respect the fact that he sponsored the press conference despite the fact that when his party was in power it buried seedlings in this province. I would like to point out that we are very encouraged by the commitment of the public to planting trees in this prov-

ince and that many of the trees that were planted on Earth Day were those surplus seedlings that we are helping to ensure are planted this year.

Mr Brown: That's very interesting. The fact is that there were 165 million trees planted last year and about the same number the year before, regardless of what the member says happened to some surplus. What we're talking about is that you suggested, in response to the member for Simcoe East, that budget constraints were stopping you.

I point out that the Treasurer, my friend to the east of my riding, as you are to the west, said in conversation with the member for St Catharines on April 8, "I hope the member opposite, despite the temptations in difficult times, will not succumb to the argument that we should abandon environmental causes in this province simply because times are tough."

I tell you, you are leaving this province not only with a fiscal deficit but with an environmental deficit. We would like the minister to stand up and confirm that he will restate the 45 million trees in this province.

Hon Mr Wildman: The member agrees with me that we must make a commitment to ecological rehabilitation in this province, and that's why we are committed to the sustainable forestry. If the member is suggesting that we should've discontinued our funding for the boreal forest audit or that we should've discontinued the work we're doing on the development of a forestry policy for this province, despite the fact that his government and previous governments never developed one in this province after cutting trees for 150 years, I wonder what his commitment really is.

The fact is that we had to make tough choices, choices that we would have preferred not to have had to make. But it's too bad that when the government had the money it could've spent, that you had when you were in government, you didn't do a sustainable forestry program.

1440

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is to the Minister of Education. In your convoluted statement yesterday where you announced the transitional assistance funding, you stated that your initiatives will address labour adjustment issues such as "the establishment of balanced and affordable contracts between school boards and unions and federations through lower wage settlements in return for enhanced employment security and other negotiated benefits." Those were your words. Is the minister telling the boards that in order to be eligible for a portion of this funding, they must open their collective agreements?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I am glad actually that the question was put as directly as that because it gives me an opportunity to try to be as direct as I can in response on this issue of reopening contracts.

I have said consistently that, believing as I do in the collective bargaining process, I am not going to go around the province saying to people that they should reopen contracts or they shouldn't reopen contracts. That's an issue

that, quite frankly, lies as one of a number of possibilities to be resolved at the local level between the boards as employers and the teachers' federation or the support staff unions as employees.

That's one of a number of possibilities there before them. Other possibilities include extending provisions of existing contracts, including a variety of other things that they may do. Very clearly, that decision is a decision that needs to be made by people at the local level, where the collective bargaining relationship exists.

Mrs Cunningham: I still don't know what you're talking about when you say "the establishment of balanced and affordable contracts between school boards and...." I don't know how they can do it without opening their collective agreement. I just don't know how, but I will take the minister's answer saying he will not legislate that or ask them to do it.

Having said that, if he isn't going to do that, then he's got one colossal nerve, because in fact he is interfering in the collective bargaining process. He's telling these school boards that in order to access this funding, if they do on their own accept lower wage settlements, he is saying—can you believe this?—"through lower wage settlements in return for enhanced employment security and other negotiated benefits." That's the tradeoff.

I'd like this minister to tell me right now, today, does he not think that that in fact is interfering in the collective bargaining process?

Hon Mr Silipo: No. It's setting out some options for people to consider. It's retaining, however, the principle that the decisions to be made are at the local level, where the collective bargaining relationship exists. It's indicating that in the same way we have managed to reach certain agreements not only with Ontario Public Service Employees Union but with the provincial school teachers along those same kinds of parameters, it's possible for school boards and teachers' federations to do the same if they wish.

In order for the situation to be managed, it is necessary for people to deal with these kinds of things collaboratively through the collective bargaining process, through joint discussions that they can have and should have at the local level. That's what we're saying; that's what I have been saying; that's what I'll continue saying.

FLOODING

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): As you know, last year there were a great many floods in Victoria-Haliburton and in other places around the province. I'd like to direct a general question, if I could, to the Minister of Natural Resources. Being concerned about flooding throughout the province and considering the fact that this weekend there will be a significant rainfall, does the minister know of any possibilities where flooding might exist at this point, and could he inform the House as to areas where we need to be ready to respond?

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): As the member will know, at this time of year this is always a concern, particularly in some parts of rural and southeastern and northern Ontario, as well as south-

west. The Ministry of Natural Resources monitors water levels and has an early warning system to ensure that people are not taken by surprise in the case of high water.

At this time, we don't know of any major flooding. There is some minor flooding north of Sault Ste Marie at this point. We expect that the Goulais River will reach its peak today, but there are possibilities of other areas being a problem if we have heavy rainfall, and I will certainly keep the House advised.

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orlino): My question is to the Minister of Revenue. Minister, hard-hit border communities have been pressing the NDP government for some time for assistance in stemming the tide of cross-border shopping. They are aware that your government is considering, without public consultation, permitting casinos. They have recommended through the Ontario Border Communities Mayors' Task Force on Cross-Border and Sunday Shopping other initiatives which you could do right away which would assist those communities. They have recommended, for example, lowering the gas tax or a differential gas tax, and they have recommended allowing municipalities to determine whether they believe it would help them to open up on Sunday as an alternative so their residents could shop at home as opposed to crossing the border.

Just today, mayors, leaders in Metropolitan Toronto, Mayor Rowlands and Mayor Lastman, have said they believe it is nuts, according to Mayor Lastman, mayor of North York, that you would consider casinos at the same time as you would forbid a grocery store to open.

As Minister of Revenue, with the responsibilities that you have to work with the mayors, would you advise me on their behalf if you are advocating to your Treasurer what they have recommended to you to help them with the cross-border shopping issue, namely lowering the gas tax and allowing them to open up on Sunday, rather than just a casino without public consultation?

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): I'd like to inform the member across the Legislature that I am in constant contact with the Treasurer, as I also live in a border community, which I think she is aware of. The cross-border shopping issue touches on many different areas and concerns many different people in all those areas. I'd like to inform her that I have spoken to them about lowering gas taxes, about Sunday shopping, about the request for casinos that have come from a lot of those border communities.

The Treasurer has listened to all those ideas, and I think some of his responses will be found in the budget and with continuing working with the border communities across the province.

Mrs Caplan: To the Minister of Revenue: Have I heard you correctly that you are anticipating the budget will remove the prohibition that requires municipalities to go the Ontario Municipal Board and does not permit them to designate and open themselves up on Sunday if they wish, and second, that you're anticipating in the budget that there will be a positive response, a lowering of the tax on gasoline in border communities? Further, do the people

of this province have your commitment that before there is a designated site, not only border communities but people in this province will have had their say on how they feel about gambling casinos in the province? Have I heard you correctly? Is that what you anticipate will be in the new budget in your response to those hard-hit communities like Windsor and others who are saying, "We'd like to consider casinos, but we also want to be able to decide for ourselves if we can open and shop on Sunday and we also need to have a lowering of gas taxes to keep our residents shopping at home"?"

Hon Ms Wark-Martyn: I'd like to inform the member that she has not heard me correctly.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): To the Minister of Agriculture and Food—I probably will only have the opportunity of one question—Mr Minister, when can we expect stable funding for the general farm organization? We've been waiting for this for a long time.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): It's a very timely question. The issue of stable funding has been around for many years and has been considered by many ministers of agriculture. We have been proactive in working with the three general farm organizations over the last year and a half, as I'm sure the member knows. I was at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture directors' meeting yesterday and announced at that meeting that it has my full support for a document it's going to consult about with its membership and the farmers across the province. If everything goes well and there's general acceptance—there is not going to be a vote, but there is going to be consultation and discussions with farm leaders and farmers across the province—I have every expectation of introducing the necessary legislation some time this fall.

1450

PETITIONS

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition from the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of Ontario and it reads, in part:

"Whereas horse racing and breeding represents 54,000 jobs in Ontario;

"Whereas horse racing and breeding has a \$400-million economic impact annually;

"Whereas horse racing and breeding is an important form of entertainment;

"Whereas horse racing and breeding is experiencing very difficult economic times;"

It is asking to petition the government to re-evaluate the economic impact, the entertainment value and employment that horse racing and breeding has in Ontario with respect to the government's proposal for casino gambling in this province.

TOBACCO TAXES

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): This petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of

Ontario, and I'm really pleased to see the Treasurer still here to hear it, because it was presented to me this morning by the chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, Albert Bouw; George Gilvesy, the vice-chair; and Hector Verhoeve, the mayor of the town of Norfolk.

The petition reads as follows:

"Whereas the present high levels of taxes on tobacco products are excessive and contrary to the interests of Ontario's two million smokers; and

"Whereas high tobacco taxes are contributing to retail theft and to our province's cross-border shopping crisis; and

"Whereas these punitive taxes and resulting lost sales are contributing to inflation as well as costing jobs in Ontario; and

"Whereas high cigarette taxes are regressive and unfair to low- and modest-income citizens,

"We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That Ontario's tobacco taxes not be increased in 1992 and further that these taxes should be repealed and a new lower and fairer tax be introduced."

This petition is signed by 1,922 very interested parties and I have affixed my signature to this petition.

NIAGARA DETENTION CENTRE

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas since 1988 the Ministry of Correctional Services has failed to adequately supervise and oversee the operations and administration of the Niagara Detention Centre;

"The ministry has failed to put in place a mechanism which would permit concerned citizens to register complaints regarding alleged abuse against inmates and have these complaints competently, independently, formally and thoroughly investigated within the framework of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1987 (amended); and

"The Niagara Detention Centre has failed to put in place policies and proper controls which would have the effect of maintaining proper records in respect of expenditures, investigations (formally and informally) of alleged abuse against inmates and inquiries from ministerial and interministerial staff,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To direct an appropriate standing committee of the Legislative Assembly (ie, general government) to report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, organization and operation of the Ministry of Correctional Services and specifically the Niagara Detention Centre."

RENT REGULATION

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, I have a petition, you'll be delighted to know. It says:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs,

"Therefore, we the undersigned petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act;

"To encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all; and

"To ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): Did you affix your signature?

Mr Mahoney: I will affix my signature in a moment. There are about 100 others, and many of them are indeed tenants in this province, who are very concerned about this terrible legislation.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a number of petitions signed by 179 Ontario residents representing both the management and employees of a number of Ontario companies, including Erisan Enterprises, Robertson and Hatchfield Ltd, BOT Construction, Nelles Construction, Dulebka Equipment Rentals, Breckmar Sales and Masters Insurance, which read:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

ACCESS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): To the Lieutenant Governor and the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"As housing is a basic human right and all residents of Ontario have a right to adequate housing, we, the undersigned, urge the government of Ontario not to cut funding to the access-to-permanent-housing initiative in the 1992-93 fiscal year."

CONTROL OF SMOKING CONTRÔLE DU TABAGISME

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I have a petition from St Basil elementary Catholic school, and it's titled The World's Longest Petition for a Smoke-Free Planet. I think it may be a little bit of hyperbole. It's bilingual. It says:

"Tobacco free is the way to be. Help us make the world smoke free."

Because it's bilingual, I'd like to read the French version as well.

«La plus longue pétition au monde pour une planète sans fumée:

«Un monde sans fumée, c'est la meilleure façon de vivre.»

It's signed by over 150 students, and I guess they're trying to promote a healthy lifestyle.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I have a petition here with 38 signatures. It says:

"We, the undersigned members of the Maidstone-Gesto pastoral chapter of the United Church of Canada, wish to go on record as opposing the legalization of gambling casinos in the province of Ontario, particularly in Windsor and Essex county.

RENT REGULATION

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings;

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows: to scrap the proposed Rent Control Act, to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

This is signed by a number of northern Ontario residents, quite a few from Sudbury, and I'll affix my signature.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA NÉGOTIATION COLLECTIVE ENTRE CONSEILS SCOLAIRES ET ENSEIGNANTS

Mr McGuinty moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la négociation collective entre conseils scolaires et enseignants.

Motion agreed to.

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): In this bill I'm attempting to modify legislation which has governed the collective bargaining process between teachers and school boards for some 17 years. In particular the bill contains provisions which will act to recognize the rights of students to attend school and to balance this right with the rights of teachers to strike and the rights of boards to lock teachers out.

One of the things my bill does is provide for the appointment of a students' interests advocate, a professional advocate to represent students' interests during a strike. In addition, my bill places express limits on how much class time a student can lose because of a strike or lockout and when that class time can be lost.

FAITHWAY BAPTIST COLLEGE OF CANADA ACT, 1992

Mr Wiseman moved first reading of Bill Pr1, An Act respecting Faithway Baptist College of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

1500

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS

Mr O'Connor, on behalf of Mrs Grier, moved third reading of Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act / Projet de loi 143, Loi concernant la gestion des déchets dans la région du grand Toronto et modifiant la Loi sur la protection de l'environnement.

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I would like to begin by restating something the Minister of the Environment told the standing committee on social development at the beginning of the public hearings on the Waste Management Act. She said:

"We in Ontario have come to a crossroads in how we manage our waste. Our choice is simple. We can continue in the direction that has made us the world's largest generators of waste or we can move in a new direction, towards a conserver society."

The Waste Management Act is a significant step in continuing this government's waste management strategy in the new direction the minister was referring to. This government's comprehensive waste management strategy took an important change in direction when the minister announced our government's conserver action plan back in November 1990. That plan had three major components: first, an aggressive waste reduction program; second, improvements to waste management planning, and third, the introduction of policies and procedures for handling short-term waste problems on an environmentally sound basis.

The focus of that announcement was that the direction of the province's waste management policy was going to be to move Ontario from a consumer society to a conserver society. This is what is at the heart of the Waste Management Act, a greater emphasis on waste reduction and reuse of materials over recycling and waste disposal.

With the passage of the Waste Management Act, we will have clearly established our direction. This legislation will be the guide for the future of waste management in this province. It will be a future where we put the environment first when we are considering how we should deal with our resources. It will be a future where values and actions that promote a conserver society will be the norm and it will be a future where pollution prevention is the guiding principle for deciding what activities are acceptable.

Work on the act began shortly after our government took office some 18 months ago, inheriting one of the biggest challenges this province had to face, its waste crisis. In the 1980s Ontario was a jurisdiction that rated as one of the world leaders in wastefulness. In this province we generate approximately 1.1 metric tonnes of garbage per person per year.

There had been a profound lack of planning and foresight in how we dealt with our resources and waste. The result: mounds of garbage loaded and trucked to landfill sites that were rapidly reaching capacity. Little progress had been made in changing the old attitude of, "Out of sight, out of mind." We continued to throw usable resources into landfills.

Waste management planning was in complete disarray. Landfill sites were reaching capacity and the time to find new, environmentally sound sites was running out. The GTA was a waste management nightmare. About 40% of Ontario's population, living on only 1% of its land, managed to produce half the province's garbage.

To remedy this situation, our government had to come up with a comprehensive plan, a lasting solution to this barrage of problems, and it had to do it fast. We realized that a bold strategy was the only way to remedy generations of wasteful consumption.

We have made the 3Rs—reduction, reuse, recycling—the cornerstone of this strategy, with waste reduction topping the list. Reuse and recycling could deal with whatever remained. As well, the very foundation of this strategy, as I have already mentioned, was the transformation of Ontario from a consumer to a conserver society.

Present economic conditions have not put a damper on people's concern for the environment. In fact, it has become an even more important part of their lives. Consumers are becoming more selective, creating a demand for environmentally friendly products.

What all this adds up to is the greening of public attitudes as well as products and the greening of more and more industries. They all want a slice of the pie. The changing of attitudes is one of the most important aspects of the Waste Management Act. It is also one of the most overlooked aspects of this piece of legislation.

The act deals with the problems of long-term and short-term landfill capacity. It changes existing legislation to allow for quicker approvals for 3Rs facilities. But what it will do, as we adjust to the changes it brings about, is change our attitudes towards how we view our waste and our resources. It will change how we define what is waste and what is resource. This type of attitude change is needed, not only to deal with waste problems but also to deal with all the activities affecting the environment.

Never before has Ontario or any other province in Canada sponsored such extensive and important public debate and public hearings on waste management.

The greatest waste burden now falls on the greater Toronto area, which generates close to half the province's total garbage, whose landfill capacity is nearly full. However, the Waste Management Act is the foundation for the implementation of a comprehensive plan to alleviate the situation.

The plan consists of:

1. Effective waste reduction based on the 3Rs. We have been tackling a waste management system that has traditionally favoured disposal over reduction. The act will speed up the approvals for the 3Rs, such as composting and recycling plants.

2. Finding three long-term sites within the GTA through an environmental assessment process.

3. Dealing with short-term needs in an environmentally sound way while we are searching for three long-term sites.

The Waste Management Act establishes the search areas that the Interim Waste Authority will use to find long-term sites within the GTA. These search areas reflect our government's thinking that the GTA, like other municipalities in the province, should look after its own waste. We disagree with the concept of shipping waste created in the GTA to landfill sites anywhere else in the province. The practice of using municipal boundaries to define a search area is standard practice for siting landfills in the rest of the province. By doing so, it encourages local responsibility for dealing with waste generated in the defined area.

The amendments made by the provincial government include changes to address municipal concerns about perceived provincial intrusion into areas of municipal responsibility. Sections relating to municipal financing will be withdrawn so that further discussion can take place with municipalities regarding the financing of waste management.

The act provides for funding to allow the public to participate in early stages of environmental assessment of new sites, as well as at later stages, including formal hearings. This will open the doors to a broader range of public interests, which will specify resources needed to represent their concerns and allow them to contribute their ideas.

As well, an amendment to a section dealing with the minister's emergency powers will impose a five-year limit on a minister's order requiring a municipality to accept wastes from other jurisdictions. In addition, compensation may be provided to the affected municipality.

A section giving power to the minister to order a municipality to prepare a waste management plan in an emergency has been withdrawn. Municipal waste management planning has been addressed in discussion papers recently released for public consultation by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The act rules out municipal solid waste incineration or the transportation to other landfills outside the greater Toronto area. This will provide further incentive to promote the 3Rs in all sectors.

1510

The proposed changes to the Waste Management Act will facilitate the implementation of the minister's waste reduction action plan announced in February 1991. Part IV of the act contains amendments to the Environmental Protection Act. These amendments are the enabling legislation for the regulatory component of the waste action plan. This enabling legislation allows the provincial government to implement regulations with respect to recycling, waste audits and waste reduction plans.

Our government feels strongly that the new waste management legislation will stimulate greater business op-

portunities in waste management. The minister has repeatedly said she would like Ontario to become a world leader in waste reduction technology and innovation. This new legislation will help provide the necessary incentive.

Industry representatives are currently involved with a number of strategy groups established by the Ministry of the Environment to develop waste reduction policies that will follow new waste management legislation. In addition to industry, the strategy groups have representatives from municipal, labour and environmental groups.

With this legislation we are beginning to implement an environmental strategy based upon four major policy directions. First, that this is a green government: The environment must be taken into account with all of our policies and programs throughout all ministries and bodies of this province. Second, stewardship: Everyone has a stake in the environment, including the right to enjoy the benefits and a responsibility for its protection. Third, conserving: To create a sustainable environment we must transform ourselves from a consumer society to a conservator society. Fourth, prevention: Our programs have a double focus, to develop strategies to prevent further damage and to clean up existing problems within our environment.

Finally, I'd like to add that this government is committed to consultation with all affected groups long before any regulation goes into place under this act.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): Here we stand now at third reading of the infamous Bill 143. For the area I represent, Mississauga North, this bill has caused a great deal of concern not only within the area but indeed throughout the region of Peel. Just to remind you, Mr Speaker, in my area is located the Britannia Road landfill site, which was slated to be closed when it reached capacity. That would probably be within another month or two.

In that respect I remind you, Mr Speaker, as well as all members of the Legislature, of the promise made by the now Premier and the now Minister of the Environment during the last election. It was a simple, straightforward promise made directly to people who had landfill sites in their area. What was that promise? It was that there would be no expansion of an existing landfill site and no creation of a new landfill site without a full environmental assessment hearing. It was a simple, straightforward promise made to people who care about their community, how it is going to grow and in which their children are going to be able to live and play.

Now we hear, in this year of 1992, that the Minister of the Environment, through her order, has expanded the Britannia Road landfill site without any hearing, without any opportunity for consultation and input by the residents of the area, who want to share with the government, with those involved, the impact the expansion of this site will have on their community. A promise made in 1990 that there will not be an expansion without a hearing, and actions taken in 1992 of expansion without a hearing; a clear change in the policy and principles of the Minister of the Environment and the Premier.

In that respect, it is something that will sit with this particular government for the length and life of this government. It is something the people of our area will not

forget. They will constantly remind the Minister of the Environment and the Premier of this province that they made a promise directly to the people that this site would not be expanded without the opportunity of consultation, input and hearing, and they backed out on their promise. They stepped back from their word. They told the people in Mississauga North that it didn't matter what they said in the election. When they were elected, this site was going to be expanded and there was going to be no opportunity for consultation.

We had a hearing set down. There was to be a hearing on an interim site located in Brampton, to look after the garbage generated in the regional municipality of Peel. That hearing was stopped by the Minister of the Environment. It wasn't enough that they afforded no hearing on the expansion of the Britannia landfill site; they stopped a hearing on an interim site located in Brampton. Two strikes against this Minister of the Environment, two strikes against the word given by the Premier and the Minister of the Environment in the election of 1990.

The residents and the ratepayers' associations in that area are concerned. In fact, they are angered at this type of action taken by the Minister of the Environment.

Mr O'Connor: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: There's something we hadn't agreed upon earlier and I was just wondering if we could get unanimous consent from the House to share the time with all three caucuses and start from 3 o'clock for the debate this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Do we have unanimous consent of the House to a time-sharing arrangement beginning at 3 o'clock?

Interjections: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker: Agreed.

Mr Offer: I believe I used about 15 minutes.

The Acting Speaker: I believe the table officers have the time recorded. The honourable member for Mississauga North may proceed under time allocation to each party.

Mr Offer: With respect to the time allocation, I'll certainly abide by that, but it also brings to mind that this bill is being rammed through this Legislature without an opportunity for full discussion on every section in the bill.

I'm going to direct my comments to that aspect of the bill that is found in part III. This is a section that has impacted and will continue to impact the communities in Mississauga. It will continue to impact the ratepayers' associations and the residents who are located within the riding of Mississauga North.

Development in the area of housing and recreation is stopped because of the expansion of the Britannia Road landfill site. The Minister of the Environment, through her actions, did not give the people of the area the opportunity to share with her what it means to expand this site for their homes and their recreation.

1520

We have a buffer zone that has been ordered by the government where no development is going to be able to take place. When development doesn't take place, houses aren't built; when houses aren't built, communities don't

grow, and when communities don't grow, the amenities within those communities—recreation centres, skating rinks, playgrounds and schools—aren't in existence. That has been shut out for the people in Mississauga North. That door of consultation has been closed in their face. We have reminded the minister time and time again that her order is going to result in that. She said no, that this wouldn't happen, but in fact it has happened.

Communities are not going to grow in areas they should have grown: in recreation centres, skating rinks, schools, shopping plazas. As an aside, let's not forget the creation of jobs at a time when jobs are not in great supply. Jobs could have been created—6,000 homes—many hundreds of thousands of work hours would have been created in the area of building and construction. That would have had a direct and important impact in the whole city of Mississauga and throughout the regional municipality of Peel.

Recognizing the allocation that has been given in this debate on third reading, I stand vehemently opposed to this legislation and dramatically opposed to the actions taken by the Minister of the Environment, shutting the door, slamming the door in the faces of the residents who want to have some input, some consultation, on what it means to expand the Britannia Road landfill site without a hearing.

I conclude by reminding the minister that it was in the election of 1990 that she and the Premier stood and said, "There shall not be any expansion of an existing landfill site without a full environmental assessment hearing." In this year of 1992, the Britannia Road landfill site, an existing landfill site, is being expanded without a hearing. You have backed away on your promise to the people not only of Mississauga North and the regional municipality of Peel but throughout the province. It is a promise you made. It is a back-away that the people of my area and throughout the province will continue to remind you of. It is a principle which you have eroded. It is one which is of your cause and it's one we will not let you forget.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I have to respond to the eloquent accusations of the member with respect to the plight of the residents in his riding. Let me start by saying to him that I certainly understand his concern and their concern. I concede there has not been a hearing under the Environmental Protection Act, but I did want to set the record straight to make sure he understood very clearly that not only had the concerns of those residents been expressed, as they were expressed to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly dealing with Bill 143, but that I had attended a public meeting called by those ratepayers and by the region of Peel in his community and listened directly to their concerns. I answered them on that occasion, and after that meeting I met in my office with representatives of those ratepayers' groups and began a dialogue with them that addressed their very specific concerns about the issues he has raised.

After that, to my knowledge there have been at least two meetings between staff of my office and officials of the ministry and representatives of the ratepayers' groups in order to try and address their concern. Their concern is that the buffer strip around the Britannia landfill site be

narrowed so that new development can occur. As has been said in these debates, a buffer strip is there to protect residents from whatever the effects of a landfill site might be. But we certainly understand that those residents felt the buffer strip would be removed and their communities therefore expanded, but as soon as the technical studies we have ordered Peel to do and which it is now undertaking are completed, we see a very real possibility that that buffer strip can be narrowed, and that the development and the developers, whose interests the member has so very much at heart, can in fact proceed.

The Acting Speaker: Because of time allocation, I believe we will forgo questions and/or comments henceforth. I will now ask for further debate.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I don't take this as a very happy day. It isn't, for the people in York region or Peel or Durham or anywhere in Ontario, when the government, using its majority, will pass Bill 143, the garbage act, this afternoon by 6 o'clock. They will quickly invite the Lieutenant Governor to make it into law, and without too much delay you're going to start to see the power of government being used in a way that abuses and takes away the powers that have through history been given to people in their communities through various other procedures.

Before I begin, I'd like to say that not everything we do in the Legislature is bad. Some good things have come out of the bill. After the period we have gone through, I first of all want to say a very strong thank you to the leader of our party, the member for Nipissing. From the very beginning, when we got into this whole process, it came through to us in caucus and to the people of our party that our leader was very much aware of the balance that's needed to come up with a solution to the problems of waste disposal within the greater Toronto area, in Kingston and in every other community where we have that issue.

Also, the members of my caucus have been just tremendous in committee work and other things. The public at large may not know there're only 20 Tories of 130 people here in the Legislature. Though we're not large in numbers, we are at least strong in spirit and are prepared to do whatever we can to fight for the things we believe in. I'll tell you, nothing, not even the Minister of the Environment and this government, can put down the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. We are here to represent all the people of Ontario and we are here to do it in a balanced and honest way. I have no doubt that this government is not doing it, and over the last several years the Liberals failed miserably in dealing with the issues.

So now we're at a point where I want to pause and say thank you to my colleagues in caucus. I want to go a step further. What I have seen come out of our caucus is a genuine concern about environmental issues. We don't wear green on our arms—the problem is, the member for London North doesn't look good in green dresses; it just doesn't match her green eyes and the money in her purse—but there isn't one of us who isn't green in our heart. We believe in it and it applies to every one of our activities. There isn't one person in our caucus who isn't as genuinely concerned about environmental issues as the

Minister of the Environment used to be when she was critic for the New Democratic Party.

Now we have trouble accepting the new face of the Minister of the Environment, because what she's become is not the same person we knew before. She used to be lovable and kind and very conciliatory, but I don't see the same person now.

Hon Mrs Grier: You don't know me very well.

Mr Cousens: I know, I'm ruining the good spirit I'm trying to share, but I just want to put on record the support of our caucus and the very strong support we have for environmental matters and the whole subject of the 3Rs and the push that's being made for that. I believe we are supportive of the kinds of initiatives the minister is taking on that. I think for us not to be supportive would be to fail to understand the need for everyone to get involved with the reduction of the use of things you don't need, to reuse them where you can, and the whole recycling process. That's something that should be a given, and let's just say it again and again: Every one of us has to work harder to make sure the 3Rs work. It's part of the plan of this government, and I support its initiative to say let's do something about it. So to that side I say something good is going on.

1530

One of the things that was very interesting and fun was Kirkland Lake. While we were there, a number of things happened, but one of the fun things that happened was that when we were there—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. This is out of order. We cannot bring props in here, particularly recordings. I'm quite sure the honourable member has plenty to say in participation in the debate without bringing in a recording.

Mr Cousens: I'll sing it myself. I just wish I could do it as well, but it was a fun time in Kirkland Lake when we made fun of the minister.

Hey, hey, hey, what about me?
Where will I be by the year 2003?
Hey, hey, hey, Ruth, please set us free,
Now this assessment for our economy.

Workers are we, ready to work,
No longer can we be left in the lurk,
Rally we must against Grier's 143,
Coast to coast, totally it may be.

Cares and troubles as you may clearly see,
As Canadians for a better economy,
We'll fight you, Ruth Grier, and your Bill 143,
It cancels our vote on opportunity.

Hey, hey, hey, what about me?
Where will you be by the year 2003?
No jobs, no assessment, no opportunity,
Just say no to that Bill 143.

Managing waste is where it's at,
Until now in the sidelines we have sat,
Recycling new jobs and new technology,
All around us, it should surely be.

A safer environment for you and for me,
Help us, Ruth, to be all we can be,
Please, Ruth Grier, don't lock us out in the cold,
Your Ontarians are worth more than our gold.

Hey, hey, hey, what about me?
Where will I be by the year 2003?
Ruth, please set us free,
We're going to show you with a community rally,
We'll just say no to that Bill 143.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): All together now.

Mr Cousens: No, not all together. It was one of those situations where the town of Kirkland Lake had built a huge, 20-foot ice sculpture of our Minister of the Environment. It was called Ruthless Grier. They even tried to be authentic by calling, a few days ahead, to see what colour the minister's eyes were. The eyes were blue. It was shaped with a hat that was pointed and on a broom. I know it mocked certain things. It was one of those days. There was a huge crowd of people. It was amazing how people could rally. If we had that kind of rally in Metropolitan Toronto it might have had an effect, but Ruth Grier wasn't around to see it. She might have picked it up on the news clips.

The Acting Speaker: I know on a number of occasions the honourable member has referred to the minister and it's been traditional and quite in order to refer to the honourable member by her title or her riding, so please.

Mr Cousens: I'll soon end my casual part and I accept your intervention. The minister certainly was missed in Kirkland Lake and the people who wanted to speak to her were disappointed that they hadn't a chance to do it. Certain people did who were on the opposing side to the Adams mine site, but others certainly didn't have that chance.

One of the good things that happened, good out of bad—how can you say that people are going to laugh in the middle of adversity? There was a sense in Kirkland Lake when we went for the hearings that even in spite of the trauma of the whole thing—the reason we were there, the failure of the government to deal with it as a possible site for landfill—people involved with it and opposing it had a little fun at the expense of the ministry.

I know the minister has a sense of humour. Maybe it's hard to show all the time but none the less the people there did it with zest, flair and a fun-loving spirit. In spite of the fact they had an issue to make, they did it in such a way that you couldn't help but remember it.

That's another thing that happened. To me, that's the spirit of democracy. In democracy, we're not going to be the way it is in certain countries in Europe that are splitting up, and throughout the world where there is the kind of intolerance to one another being shown. I sense that in spite of the fact that very few people have won the day in the debate over Bill 143, at least the spirit of tolerance and goodwill has persisted. In spite of the fact that I disagree diametrically with the minister on her policy and what she's doing, I have a tremendous amount of respect for her as a person, and to separate the two is part of the problem.

Public hearings were a good thing that happened. I'm really delighted that the Liberals worked with us, and we with them, to have the public hearings. We were able to have four weeks in which the public was able to participate in what was going on with this bill. One week was for clause-by-clause. It was good that we did it because I don't think there is any doubt that the exceptional presentations made by such a large number of people offered a tremendous amount to the thinking process around how we should as a province be dealing with our waste.

I've identified seven of the different presentations. Lily Cups came in with a presentation on what they're doing about packaging. The whole packaging association was able to show us a number of the things they're doing on their own as an industry to improve their systems and their technologies, to recycle things, to put them back into new products. The approach that they're taking is a most responsible one, and we saw an example there of leadership.

We saw it as well with companies such as St Lawrence Cement and Ogden Martin Systems. Many people are not aware, but state-of-the-art incinerators are being shipped from Ontario-based manufacturers to other parts of the world. We saw their presentation as something where, even in a province where we are banning incineration, they were able to show that they are able to take this technology to other countries, other places, and to do something with it.

We saw it with OMMRI. Here we see an organization that's doing a great deal towards recycling and has emphasized the importance of it. Its whole existence is around the blue box program, and more than that, around the whole effort to get industry to work together to encourage consumers to recycle.

With Laidlaw Waste Systems we saw a company that came forward showing how the private sector can get involved with the municipality to save money. If there's anything that comes out of that lesson, it's let the government not always try to do it itself. Be involved with the free enterprise system out there. Work out partnerships with other people so that you can develop ways of doing things. It doesn't always have to be the same old way or the way the government wants to do it. You can say: "Here are the parameters. Let's try to work together." Laidlaw showed that private sector involvement does work to save money, and there are many others like that working within our communities.

I can't overestimate the importance that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has on what goes on here. In representing all those municipalities, over 800 in Ontario, they talked in a very loud and clear way about the need for consultation and how they hadn't been involved in the whole decision-making process around the implementation of Bill 143. I respected what they had to say, and they represented the municipalities very well.

If one person came in and left an impression of compassion for a community and anger at the ministry, it was the mayor of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion. She certainly identified that there isn't a waste crisis. Her presentation was absolutely incredible. What a magnificent statement she was trying to make on behalf of so many of the communities

of the greater Toronto area. They were made by other mayors and other municipalities, but she said it well. I've mentioned Kirkland Lake, and certainly its presentation had an awful lot to say about what has gone on.

If I talk about good things that have gone on, the worst part of it is that there have been more bad things that have happened with this bill. I've identified quite a large list of the things that offend our party, our caucus and so many of the people who have made presentations.

I think the one thing that every politician gets tagged with is when anyone is accused of lying. So we've coined a new word in the Legislature called "Martelling," and that becomes a way of saying you didn't tell it as it was. The Martel story of the whole environmental crisis is that before the election on September 6, 1990, the member for York South, the present Premier, was in Vaughan, near the Keele Valley landfill site—spitting distance in fact—when he said that site would never be expanded or built on or have anything done with it unless there was a full environmental assessment.

Having said that during the election campaign—and the people who heard him say they believed him—now that he is in power with the Minister of the Environment, he is reversing that decision and is removing that promise from those things that he committed to prior to being elected. Why make a statement before you're elected and then have to withdraw it afterwards? It is one of the most offensive things a politician or any person can do. If there is one thing that has lowered the esteem that people hold for politicians, it is that they think every one of us lies.

1540

If anything can take away the purpose we have, the value of what we have to do, the absolute sincerity we've got to have with our jobs, it is that we cannot ever misrepresent what we're doing or are seen to do so. To do that is to give people reason to believe that we're all liars. The fact that we've had the situation with the member for Sudbury East in this Legislature and the fact that I can point to this situation here in Vaughan as it pertains to Keele Valley, if those aren't very serious breaches of the etiquette of a politician, then I don't know what else they are. The fact that it stains every one of us with a smell is something I find offensive and I can't help but react to it.

When I say the bad things that have come out of this bill, the worst thing is the fact that this government has come along now and reversed a position it gave when it was in opposition. For them to do so is abhorrent. It is unacceptable, it is inexcusable—and don't ever make light of that. We don't.

I will tell you this much: If my leader or people in my caucus ever lie, I will come forward and I will separate myself from them. If I ever lie, I will resign. I will have nothing to do with it. If I misrepresent something because I don't have all the facts, I will apologize and I will explain it. I will not be part of a lie. The people of Ontario are now the recipients of an injustice, and if people think it's funny—I see my friends on the New Democratic side making light of it—then I say I will not be part of that joke, because to me it is not humorous.

The people of Ontario expect more of their politicians. It's tragic when politicians come along and say one thing and do another. That's what they're beginning to expect of us and that's what this government has done with Bill 143. For people to come along and think it's a joke, it is not a joke.

So when I say, "What's the bad thing that comes out of this bill?" it is that. There has been a misrepresentation of what has gone on before and after, and it is totally inexcusable. That sits worse than anything that has gone on since then, because where is the integrity of a person or a government when you can say one thing before you're elected and another thing after? I say not even to accept the responsibility for it, not even to admit it is to add to the grievance I have with this government on that issue.

My next point is lack of consultation. When the government came forward and announced its bill—it was October 24—municipal electors were beginning to think of whom they were going to elect on November 11 or 12. Those who were running for political office at that time certainly didn't have an opportunity to look at this bill and to understand its consequences and its implications for their municipalities within the greater Toronto area and around the province.

It is not just a greater Toronto area issue; it affects all of Ontario because of the precedent-setting nature of this legislation. What happened is that this bill was tabled in the House, we didn't get to debating it until later on, in late November or December, and the minister was anxious to see that the bill would be passed prior to the House rising for Christmas vacation so it could be implemented more quickly.

The nature of it was such that we would not allow it to go without public hearings. We could not allow it to happen because there are so many ramifications to this bill, and yet this government was anxious to implement it without change. The fact is that a number of incidental, insignificant amendments were made during the course of the hearings when we did clause-by-clause. That gives some justification to the government, I suppose, for the fact that we did spend a week on clause-by-clause going through the bill. But more than that, it has to be something in which the government is working with the public at large to develop its policies and its platforms.

The next bad thing I see is that I believe this bill can be subjected to a court challenge under the charter, because if it does anything, it takes away rights and freedoms of individuals. It takes them away in the way in which our property can be taken away from us and where all legislation around those matters is removed. It totally removes our rights as it affects expropriation laws and other pieces of legislation. I sincerely hope somebody will challenge this bill under the charter.

The next point I have is the secrecy. It was like a spy movie, because the problem is that we still don't know who the spy is. I know who the bad guy is in this movie. The worst part was that we wanted to see the list of sites being considered as possible landfill sites within the greater Toronto area, and this government would not release it. We've never seen that list of sites. That list of sites

was supposed to come from the Interim Waste Authority in December. We hoped to see it. We wanted to see it. We asked to see it. They wouldn't give it out. We've got a concocted, half-baked answer that it's still in process. I'll tell you, ladies and gentlemen and Mr Speaker, we'll see it very quickly once this bill comes into law. Then we'll exactly know what has happened with it.

The secrecy around the whole process—let there be dialogue, let there be openness, let there be a chance for everybody to participate in the democratic process. Unfortunately, when you get elected you seem to forget about the people until it's time for another election. If there's anything that offends the public, it's that. You call it consultation. It isn't consultation. It's just a one-sided point of view and you do what you wanted to anyway.

Another bad thing about this bill is that it closes off worthwhile options from consideration. Who knows whether there is a site outside the GTA that is suitable for a landfill site? Who knows what that site is? I don't know where it is. I couldn't tell you what community would be a willing host or have the ingredients that would make it correct and very suitable from an economic point of view, from an environmental point of view, from a community point of view.

All those factors would be considered in the choice of a site other than in the GTA, but this bill has said there will be no consideration of sites outside the GTA for landfill. Wrong. This government in its own sweet wisdom allowed Kingston to send its garbage up to Carleton Place because it had a problem. It's happening right now. You've got loads of refuse being sent south of the border to the United States. We're shipping it south of the border right now in great quantities, some of it being incinerated. Who knows what's happening with it? But it's cheaper to ship it down there than it is to put it in Ontario landfill sites within the GTA, Keele Valley particularly. This government has closed the door to any other piece of land for a landfill site outside of the greater Toronto area.

I say a pox on you. If one of those sites happened to be Kirkland Lake and those neighbouring communities which are saying, "We could be interested in it"—they haven't said it's guaranteed, but let there be an environmental assessment that would determine whether it was worthwhile to look at the Adams mine site or another site. If it worked and was good and had the capacity, and everyone involved along the rail line and at the MacMillan yard in Vaughan and wherever else said, "We're willing to work with the government to have our community considered for a landfill site; we see it as something that can generate economic growth and business and other things," who knows, out of someone else's problem there can be someone else's benefit. That is what I wanted to see. The option for shipping garbage of any kind out of the greater Toronto area is closed for ever according to this bill. I say that's wrong.

This government has also closed the option of incineration. There isn't unanimity in my own caucus on the whole issue of incineration. In fact, during the presentations a number of concerns were raised that make me say there may well be some arguments to those who oppose incineration. I believe those arguments have to be investigated

and analysed scientifically. I am not a scientist, but I am capable of saying, "If I don't know, put it through an environmental assessment process so that within that process all the questions and answers that one might have about incineration could be answered."

Don't deal with it arbitrarily from a techno-peasant point of view. Don't deal with it as if it's just closed because your mind is closed. Allow it to go to an environmental assessment process, where those who have something to say from a scientific and every other point of view would be able to table their concerns. They could be looked at, analysed, assessed, and then in good time they could come forward with recommendations that might be worth something.

1550

I don't want to be the one who says I'm for incineration or I'm opposed to it. I'm saying let's at least look at it as an option. This bill says no to it categorically. Now, we'll see it with biological parts, body parts, it'll be there, and there are certain processes where incineration may well be very helpful: energy from waste and other things. But the first question you have to ask is, what are the net impacts on the environment and on our society? As I heard the minister say yesterday, and I agree with the question and her answer, you've got to look at the impact it has on the air, on the water and everything else. It can't be decided whether we're in favour or opposed to the subject of incineration unless you look at all the ramifications. That's all I'm asking for. All I'm asking for is the option to be considered, but one of the bad things about this bill is that they've closed consideration of the whole subject of incineration without any further debate or any further discussion. I say I don't like that.

I don't like one other thing and that is the way the New Democrats used their power and their majority to say to me and the people who wanted to hear and participate in this debate, "We're not going to go to Kirkland Lake." We did everything we could in committee to say let's go to Kirkland Lake. One of the members of the committee at the time, the member for Sault Ste Marie, a New Democratic member, blocked Kirkland Lake as a possible site for us to visit as a committee because he said it was conflict of interest.

I have to say it was essential that in our hearing process we would go to Kirkland Lake. The process in this Legislature prevented us from going there because in committee the New Democrats voted against Kirkland Lake as a site we'd visit. They didn't want to go there. They were willing to go to North Bay or Sudbury or Kingston or Sault Ste Marie, but not Kirkland Lake. Why? What a dumb answer and what a dumb use of power they used on us in committee. That is what really hurts. You're down here to do a job and then the New Democrats use their power to put you down. I've never felt worse than I did in that committee that night when, for the dumb reasons the New Democrats gave, they said, "We won't go to Kirkland Lake."

Who else was really under consideration? Metropolitan Toronto had spent over \$10 million looking at that as a viable site. Metropolitan Toronto had been told back in 1991 by the Minister of the Environment that the whole

notion of looking at a site outside of Toronto was worthwhile. I have the letter right here to Chairman Tonks from the Minister of the Environment dated January 22, where she says, "Continue to investigate the conceptual design and evaluation of the feasibility of rail haul." She doesn't say Kirkland Lake, but rail haul. If any example came through the Metro analysis, it was that Kirkland Lake was a viable option to be considered. So I got into this committee and the committee said, "Can't go to Kirkland Lake, boys; that's going to be too difficult"—too difficult because it was going to be too hot for the New Democrats, and that's what makes it sickening when you're here.

If you're in politics and you can't stand the heat of the kitchen, get out. We'll get rid of you in 1,400 or so days from now when the election comes up, and that's what I hope will happen. But I say when you're down here working in this place you've got to work together, you've got to listen to the public, you've got to be involved. It was terrible the way this government came along and tied our hands, closed the doors and just forgot about the truth.

One of the other bad things I see out of this bill is the violation to the national packaging protocol. The first three parts of the bill have to do with garbage in Metropolitan Toronto, but the fourth part of the bill really shouldn't have been part of this bill; it was not part of something the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area should have been involved with, although she happens as well to be the Minister of the Environment.

What they've done through this bill is set Ontario up to become a world leader in packaging guidelines. Now, I like that, I want that—if we can have incentives so that business and everybody sees a model we can develop that makes us say Ontario's doing it right. But use the carrot approach as well. Don't just institute mandatory regulations and guidelines that could cause business to say: "We won't go to Ontario because in Ontario, well, why even sell our product? We have to do things differently there to do business than in other jurisdictions."

Don't set us apart from the rest of the world. We're part of a great global trading arrangement that's developing. Hopefully when we get out of this recession we will begin to see more trade back and forth among our provinces and south of the border, but don't do what you've done in this bill and set up a set of guidelines where the government is going to overrule and cause other companies to say, "We don't want to be part of this."

One of the other bad things about this bill is that they call it the Interim Waste Authority. There's nothing interim about this waste authority. It's with us; we're stuck. We've got a 20-year plan. Why didn't they change the name and call it something else? It's part of the political game, where we give names to everything and then a way we live with it.

I wish I had more time to go into the Packaging Association of Canada's presentation. They had a lot to say on what part IV of this bill could mean.

Other things that tie in to what the bill is all about: I have three letters in particular I want to refer to quickly. I've talked about Kirkland Lake. I have a letter to the Premier dated April 13 from Mayor Joe Mavrincac of Kirk-

land Lake. He said: "There is a critical need for our community and the north as a whole to examine and entertain new economic opportunities. This is essential to our long-term survival." They've tried to prevail upon the Minister of Northern Development, the Premier and the Minister of the Environment to look at the whole Rail Cycle North option. It's just been closed right down.

I have in my hands as well a letter that is signed and shared by the region of York, Alan Tonks of Metro Toronto, Durham Chairman Gary Herrema and Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson. They make three points: (1) that there is no garbage crisis in the GTA that proper management procedures cannot handle, and (2) the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act, including considering a broad range of alternatives, should apply in the search for solutions.

I have to thank the member for Nipissing, who made it very clear in our caucus that a lot of the problems we have with this bill, parts I, II and III as they relate to making Metro Toronto the garbage centre, could be handled if you made changes to the Environmental Assessment Act, and it's confirmed by this letter.

The third point: "The bill allows the province to assume municipal responsibilities and gives appointed provincial officials the authority to tell elected municipal councils what their financial priorities should be." The public at large may not realize what that means, but when you have elected council and they have responsibility for the budget but someone who is a provincial appointee can come along and affect what they're doing, it can be a very, very serious problem to those municipalities.

I have a letter as well from the mayor of Vaughan. I don't want to take thunder away from my friend the member for York Centre, who represents a large part of that area, but it is part of the south York region. Her letter is dated April 14, but that's time for the minister to have read it, because it was addressed to her and copied to myself and many others.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Don't you do your personal correspondence privately?

Mr Cousens: I make it public when it's good and when everybody else is copied. You were copied on this too; they even put your name ahead of mine. What she said in the letter is, "The arbitrary withdrawal of environmental protections is unnecessary and unfair to the residents of the city of Vaughan." I couldn't agree with her more, and that was made very clear by representations before our committee. "While we recognize the significance of this amendment that's going to allow public hearings, we do not believe that it responds in any meaningful way to our concerns."

She went on and made a number of excellent points which show that the government has really failed to understand the importance of dialogue. She said, "This amendment underscores that the responsibility for these decisions is to be withdrawn from the politicians who are directly accountable to the electorate and placed in the hands of a civil servant to deal with, without recourse." So she has the feeling of that one.

I also point, if I may, briefly to the chairman of the region of Durham. The member for Durham West has said so many times that he's doing the right things for his region. I'd like to hear the conversation between the member for Durham West and the chairman of the region of Durham, because the presentation that was made by the chairman says this, and I want to quote it into the record so that those who don't like it at least have to listen to it and read it, and may the constituents in the member for Durham West's area understand that he was diametrically opposed on this issue to what his own chairman had to say.

1600

The chairman said: "Bill 143 represents yet another set of changes in waste management requirements the region must follow. It continues to place waste management outside of the region's control, yet the region is being expected to absorb the financial liabilities that result from these decisions. This is an intolerable situation."

When you have the chairman of the region of Durham calling this an intolerable situation, I say, why is it that the member for Durham West doesn't even listen to it?

He also said in his letter, and I will just read it quickly:

"The minister has also stated that she has committed to a full participatory process. Unfortunately she did not follow through on this commitment with Bill 143. Municipalities were not given a chance to comment on this bill before it entered the Legislature. There was not full consultation. This leads us to question the minister's commitment to full consultation."

So ends that part of the saga.

I only have a few moments left, because I have an honourable friend who wants to continue. I think when we look at it all, the reality is that this government says, "You can't burn it." They have said no to incineration. They've said, "You can't transport it." They have said no to even those who say, "Yes, I'll have it in my backyard."

The reality is, you can't stop it. There is always going to be garbage. The reality is, you can't count on the 3Rs. The 3Rs are becoming too expensive. The whole blue box program could be in jeopardy. Some communities are finding it inordinately expensive to handle and the future of it is a matter of concern.

So what is it that's going to be done with our excess goods we throw away, since we've said no to burning it, no to transporting it, no to really making sure the 3Rs are going to work? What is going to happen then is you're going to bury it. You're going to bury it, which is an outdated technology. It's dangerous, it's messy and you're always going to have people who will stand up and say, "I don't want it in my backyard."

The solution this government has found for Metro's garbage is to inflict a landfill site of 40 million tonnes on an area that is the fastest-growing populated area in Canada. They're going to say, "Somewhere in these areas, in Durham, York and Peel, there'll be a nice site for you to put your garbage, even though there may be sites outside of this area that want it more." I'll tell you, there are always going to be more people down here who don't want it than there are outside who might want it.

In the meantime we have to deal with the whole process this government has not begun to deal with—environmental assessment—in a way that could begin to handle it.

We have seen millions of dollars thrown aside. We have seen a public relations campaign by the government that says it's a crisis. We have seen them refuse to listen to businesses, to the opposition, to communities. We've seen a group that is now the government going ahead breaking promises that have been set in stone before—possibly because these areas are not NDP, but who is to think that?

They have introduced this bill in isolation from reality and in isolation from input from any of the people who really had something to say to it. I don't see any win-win situation for the government on this bill. I see it as a situation where we in Ontario are now losing so much because of the way this bill has been processed and brought forward.

Unfortunately I don't know the answer to it all. If I were to come forward and have a solution to it I would say, "Let us begin immediately to change the environmental assessment process." If the environmental assessment process is taking too long and is just causing extended protracted of time and dithering by government process because of frivolous objections, let us begin to look very seriously at the environmental assessment process so we can take that time, which might now be as long as five years, and bring it down to a much shorter time frame. Yet within that time frame, if you put the disciplines in place where you've got the kind of legal expertise that would come through those who have been in the courts, they could say: "You only have so much time to make your presentation. If you don't have it by that time, we move to the next one." The Supreme Court doesn't give unlimited time to people to make their objections. They limit it, they control it and it comes through.

If we were to bring some of that kind of legal expertise to the environmental assessment process, still giving everyone who needs it an opportunity to have his or her objection heard and understood and made—if in fact there is a need for more scientific evidence on certain issues, let it be made. Let it be found, let that time be given, and let there be that option open. But instead we are seeing Bill 143 being pushed through this House today by a government—

Mr Sorbara: Rammed through.

Mr Cousens: Rammed through; I agree with the member for York Centre. They are ramming it—

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): Why don't you guys sit up there together?

Mr Cousens: I've never agreed with him on everything, but on this bill there isn't another person—I'll just tell you this: He's one of the people who, if this had been a Liberal government, would've stopped it. He would've done something. Unfortunately he is just as powerless as I am, but vocal he will be, and fight for his community he will. That's what you have to do in this business, because you believe in it.

Interjection.

Mr Cousens: Oh, come on. I don't want to give a Liberal a compliment, but if he does the right thing I'll even compliment the member for York Centre.

I'll just tell you this much: The whole process we're involved with is wrong. The government is abusing its majority. They're putting something over on the people of Ontario. Most people don't know about it. Most people are apathetic. I am not apathetic. Our caucus is not apathetic. We will not give up. Though this bill may be passed today, it will spell the end of the New Democrats. It's another nail in their coffin. When you are buried 1,400 days from now, this is just going to be one of those nails and we'll say: "There it is. On the 23rd of April there's that nail, Bill 143." It'll have your name on it. So ends the era 1,400 days or less from now.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): It's with great pleasure, if I may start off by saying that, that I speak in favour of this bill. As a member from northern Ontario, the area to which Metropolitan garbage was going to be shipped, I am very much pleased to be able to speak in favour of this bill which, quite frankly, stops that from happening.

I would just like to start off by saying one thing. I listened with great intent to the member for Markham talk about his position that when in opposition or in government people should be saying the same things before an election and after an election, all those points. I would like to remind the Conservative caucus and the people of this province that in the summer of 1990, in an election, when visiting the Marmora site—which, by the way, is another open-pit site—the member for Nipissing said it only took him 12 to 18 seconds to figure out that you can't put garbage into an open pit. I wonder why all of a sudden they have forgotten. By the way, this is off a Conservative press release. If it's not good for Marmora, excuse me, it is not good for northern Ontario.

On that particular point I would just like to say that I think we sometimes have situations in northern Ontario that are dealt with a little bit differently than in the south because of our geography. One of the things that is very important for a community in northern Ontario is how we deal with the whole question of getting people to understand the north for what it is: an area of Ontario that takes up about three quarters of the province that has a lot of wilderness that has never been touched in any way whatsoever. I think people look at the north and say, "There's a piece of the province that hasn't been decimated to a great extent in regard to environmental disasters."

The problem I had right from the beginning, when the Liberals proposed this whole idea of shipping garbage into Kirkland Lake or anywhere else outside of Metropolitan Toronto, was that it would change the attitude in regard to the way people view northern Ontario, "Northern Ontario is a place where Metropolitan Toronto sends its garbage." I'm very proud to stand here today as a New Democrat and say we shut the Liberal bill down. We said we were not going to allow it to go.

Mr Sorbara: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I am sure that had he had his wits about him the member for Cochrane South would not have wanted to mislead this House. But it's important for him to have an opportunity to correct the record and inform other members of this House—

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry. This is not a point of order. The member may well have a difference of opinion. That's very understandable. You can only correct your own record. The honourable member for Cochrane South does have the floor.

Mr Bisson: To put the record straight, what everybody in this House knows, I would think—and most people who have really looked at this whole question of what happens with Metropolitan garbage—is that the Metropolitan area had a problem on its hands. It has now and it had to find a place to get rid of its garbage. What the Liberals were going to allow was Metropolitan garbage going into northern Ontario. That's the effect of what that government was going to do.

1610

Mr Sorbara: My friend is misleading the House.

Mr Bisson: When we came to power, it was obviously—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I believe I heard an honourable member say something to the effect that someone was misleading the House. Would you please withdraw that comment.

Mr Sorbara: I would like to invite the member to correct the record, but if he's not going to do that, then I guess under the circumstances I'll withdraw the comment and hope that he sees the way correctly to correct the record.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much. The honourable member has withdrawn the comment. Please proceed and address your remarks to the Chair.

Mr Bisson: Anyway, the point I was making is basically this: What was going to happen is that Metropolitan garbage was going to be allowed to be shipped outside the GTA and into another willing host community. What this government did and what we decided at the very beginning is that we didn't want that scenario to happen for a number of reasons.

I don't have the time in this debate to get into the environmental issues in regard to shipping garbage over a 300- to 400-mile area over rail lines going through communities such as North Bay, Temagami and other places—the danger that this would represent, but also the site itself. I would just bring back again to the attention of the people of the House and the people of Ontario: If it was good enough for the member for Nipissing to not want to put garbage into a pit, I think it's good enough for the people of this province. We would agree within this government, and we take his recommendation quite seriously.

In regard to Bill 143, let's keep in mind what this bill is. This bill is entitled An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area. This is what this bill is all about. One of the things that happens with the opposition—and I understand, because that's the role of the opposition—is to cloud sometimes the facts a little bit in regard to how the arguments are put forward. I don't criticize that, but I find it upon me to come and just clarify a couple of points.

Before this act ever came around, no municipality in Ontario had the right to ship garbage outside its boundaries. Metropolitan Toronto did have that right because of the way it is able to deal with the particular regulations. What this act basically says is that Metro Toronto and the GTA will have to deal internally with their own garbage problem and will not have the right to ship garbage around the province in order to get rid of the problem. I think allowing that to happen on the part of this government would really have created a situation where it wouldn't have put any onus on the municipality of Toronto or the GTA or anybody else to really sit down and start dealing with the problem we have with garbage here in Ontario.

We know the problem is not only here in Ontario; other cities across North America and, I would say, in Europe and other places have the same kind of problem. What we need to do as a society is start dealing with the question of garbage. That's exactly what it is. It's garbage. The opposition doesn't like to use that word, but this is what this stuff is. If we allow municipalities to ship their garbage out, what we're doing is taking away any onus they have of really looking at how they can effectively deal with the problem in a managed, long-term type of system.

The first thing we need to do obviously is we should be looking at reducing the amount of garbage that we put into landfill sites. You can do that by a number of mechanisms, with the participation of the private sector, the government. The municipal governments can find ways to reduce garbage so that, in the long run, we don't have to put as much garbage inside a waste disposal site.

The second thing obviously that we should be looking at as part of the 3Rs program is the whole question of reusing, of saying: "Let's look at some of the things that we can do around reusing. I'm going to buy a bottle of pop. Why don't we buy it out of a bottle rather than a can and throwing it in the garbage?" We say it gets recycled, but a lot of it ends up in landfill sites. We take a look at, for example, in Europe what they do in some places. If I want to go buy goods, I bring my own bag, I buy my soybean, I buy whatever, I put it in my own bag and I bring it home. There are ways that we can effectively deal with reducing the amount of garbage going into landfill sites.

The other issue is on the question of packaging. I think the member for Markham raised a point that was very interesting. He's right that one of the things we have to be able to do is encourage the private sector to be able to reduce the amount of packaging so in effect again we can take pressure off our landfill sites.

I only want to point out one thing. I find that interesting, coming from a party of the right such as the Conservatives. They have always preached—and I have listened from the time I can remember, watching the media and reading the papers—that the private sector can do it best, and if the government kept its nose out of it, that sector would be able to deal with it. But the member for Markham stood there and said that the only way it can happen is the government has to get involved by creating incentives. I find that somewhat contrary. I'm not saying I disagree with the idea of the incentives, but the whole notion that for some reason they can do it best and for some reason

they can do it on their own, when they're the first to come to us and say, "We need an incentive in order to make this happen"—maybe that's the direction we should take.

In regard to what happened around Kirkland Lake, I'd just like to get into a couple of things. First of all, in Kirkland Lake, under the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee what they had done is they came out with an agreement by which they would allow garbage to go to that particular site, which was the Adams mine. It's a fairly new iron ore mine that just closed down some two years ago. They were going to allow the garbage to go from Metropolitan Toronto into this site.

One of the things that has been expressed from the very beginning of this whole debate, from first reading of Bill 143, is that what had to happen in Kirkland Lake is a full-blown environmental assessment—that was the charge by the opposition and some of the people in the community of Kirkland Lake—in order to take a look at that site. I would just like to ask, why do an environmental assessment on something the government has no intention of doing?

We don't want to ship garbage to Kirkland Lake. That is not the solution. To do an environmental assessment and spend the money necessary in order to make that happen would be a bad use of money. Why study something you're not going to do? The point is, we weren't going to do an environmental assessment in Kirkland Lake because we didn't want the garbage going there in the first place.

On the question of the environmental assessment, it has been said by members of the opposition and within the media—and I would like to set the record straight—that under Bill 143, when you create a new landfill site, there would not need to be an environmental assessment. According to the regulations, in the creation of a new landfill site, you have to have a full-blown environmental assessment. Certainly the people of Ontario want that and that's what this bill is all about. We want the opportunity for people to have their say. But with regard to doing an EA on the question of the Adams mine site, it made no sense because we were not going there.

With regard to what happened around the committee hearings, the member for Markham said the NDP in some way didn't want to go to Kirkland Lake. I go to Kirkland Lake quite often—it's a sister riding; it's a beautiful area that had a former NDP member and now has a Liberal member—and a lot of people have talked to me on this particular issue. Either people have come to my constituency office or I have met with them in Kirkland Lake. Other government members have done the same thing in order to hear the concerns of the people in Kirkland Lake. The majority view I heard coming from the people in that area is that they didn't want this thing to go ahead. That was the majority view.

That brings us to the question of the referendum. The opposition will say the referendum clearly stated that people wanted to go ahead with the project. No. The referendum asked, "Do you want to have an environmental assessment to study if such a site would make any sense and wouldn't harm the environment?" Sure, I'll vote for

that, because I'm not voting in favour of the site, I'm voting in favour of having an environmental assessment.

Around the same time as that referendum, there was a referendum held in Chapleau, where they put the question directly to a northern town in Nickel Belt and said, "Are you in favour of shipping Metro's garbage to Chapleau?" and 89% said no. I would guess the majority of people in Kirkland Lake would have said no if it had come down to the final straw of bringing garbage from Metropolitan Toronto into Kirkland Lake.

I find it quite fascinating as a northerner. I was born in northern Ontario and raised in Timmins. I understand the feeling people in northern Ontario have had for years with regard to sometimes feeling alienated from southern Ontario. The one thing I really found very strange in this debate, what we saw happening in the media, what happened here in the Legislature and at Metro council was the whole notion that all of a sudden some people from northern Ontario were going to ally themselves with people from the south in order to bring garbage into the north.

I never thought I'd see that debate going on in a million years, because it's always been the view of the people in the north that what has to happen is that we have to have the money in order to develop our resources, to make sure our resource sector is strong, and then look at secondary industry, but certainly never a question of bringing garbage into the north to create jobs. For me it was quite a strange situation to be in, being a government member, saying, "No, I don't want garbage coming into the north," and listening to some of the debate that was going on within the media. What they were trying to express as a majority view I think was a minority view, saying that somehow we have to allow this to happen. I found that quite a funny debate.

There is an organization in northern Ontario called the northeastern Ontario municipal association which voted in favour of this particular site, but one thing I know from speaking to people on councils across the area that NOMA represents, a lot of them came to me privately and said:

"Your government's doing the right thing. We shouldn't allow garbage to come into the north. We understand that Kirkland Lake is in a situation where it's economically depressed because of what's happened in the metal markets. We know the iron ore mines, the Adams mine and a number of others shut down. Two or three years ago we saw quite a few closures in that area, but for God's sake, we shouldn't allow this thing to happen."

1620

What I think people were trying to support was the ability of the town of Kirkland Lake to find some sort of mechanism by which to have money in order to have people working, in order to develop the jobs that were necessary to keep that community going. I would say as a northerner that is certainly not the way I would want to see it done in regard to garbage. I think we have to do more to support our resource industry and to make sure we have a healthy mining community and healthy pulp and paper and lumber companies. We can take a look after that at the tertiary industries around that and value added as a response for dealing with that, but I certainly don't think garbage is one of them.

I want to keep some time for the other members who are going to speak, but I want to close off by saying a couple of things. I think what we've seen here in regard to the attitude around this whole bill is something that I think can sometimes be described as a NIMBY attitude. Basically, what's happening is that people in Metro say—and I understand why—"Listen, we have a garbage problem. Let's dispose of it, but not in my backyard. Put it in somebody else's." I would say that is not a good way of dealing with it.

We do have a garbage crisis in Ontario, as we have across North America. The progressive way of dealing with that and the long-term way of dealing with it is sitting down and dealing with the things we can really do to affect it over the long term. I would say that the 3Rs are a good way to go. We need to reduce the amount of garbage going into landfill sites so that we don't start overutilizing those sites unnecessarily and having to look for more and more as time goes along.

We inherited this situation. I'm not going to point the finger at the Liberals or the Tories and say they're all the ones with the problem. The problem is that over the years, garbage has been an issue that people had not thought about originally. It's only over the past five and 10 years that the environmental movement has really started to draw attention to this particular problem.

I think now the people of Ontario, like the rest of the people across this great country, are starting to realize that there are other ways of dealing with that situation. What we need to do is deal progressively with the idea of diminishing the amount of garbage that goes into landfill sites in the long run so that we're not faced with the decision of having to ship garbage around.

As I said at the beginning, I'm quite proud to stand here as an NDP member and vote in favour of this bill, because what it does basically is put Metropolitan Toronto and the GTA in the same ballpark as everybody else, dealing with its garbage problems internally, within its own boundaries.

Interjections.

Mr Bisson: It's fairly interesting what the member—we always have the wisdom of the opposition going off and heckling here.

The point I'm making is that we need to deal with this question progressively over the long term. We need to find ways of reducing the amount of garbage going into our landfill sites. With great pleasure, I stand in favour of this bill and support it. I think it's the right way to go and in the long run the people of this province will benefit.

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): One of the things about this bill that is very important for us to recognize is that it's symptomatic of what happens when a government is strapped by ideology, when it is ideologically bound to follow a certain course. The net result is that all of the options are not open for consideration. As a result, the people of the province could end up paying, and not the government of the day.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable members will have the opportunity to participate in this debate as soon as their party's turn comes up, so I would appreciate if you could allow the honourable member for Ottawa South to participate and then your turns will come.

Mr McGuinty: I'd always thought it was in the public interest to consider all of the options when we're facing a problem, but apparently that's not how this government views how things should be done. An environmental assessment affords an opportunity for an issue to be heard in an impartial, objective manner by a group of experts who consider these matters intelligently, expertly and in a forum devoid of emotion.

What this government is saying is: "We are not going to put a couple of the options that are available to us to the test," those options being incineration and shipping or transporting of garbage. "We know better and we will not permit that to happen." The environmental assessment process, and more specifically the panel, has that wonderful luxury we don't have in this House of considering issues in a forum that is not buffeted by the winds of political expediency. It's not hamstrung by political ideology.

It's where political correctness is not a factor, where political agendas are not a factor. Briefly, simply, it just makes decisions objectively. It has its problems, there's no doubt about that, and those have been brought to our attention in the past, but the fact of the matter is the environmental assessment process and the panels which review the issues that come before it have a great deal of respect in this province. It has acquired an excellent reputation, and people have always understood that if all else fails, at least we can have these issues heard before the environmental assessment panel.

But with one fell swoop, this legislation changes all that. When it comes to the greater Toronto area's garbage, those people will not be entitled to have a full and objective consideration of all the options for dealing with their garbage, because the bill says essentially: "Look, you know that rule that says you've got to look at all the options in order to fully and properly consider what it is we're going to do when we're addressing a particular problem? Well, forget that rule. It doesn't apply in this particular case. What we're going to do is we're going to leave out of consideration this business of incineration and shipping garbage outside the GTA."

If I were a resident in the greater Toronto area, I would be very concerned, and I have concerns, notwithstanding that I'm not a resident, because I believe this bill has implications which stretch far beyond the consideration of the garbage problem within the Toronto area. I'm concerned because what this bill is doing is deliberately and methodically reducing the options for dealing with garbage and it's effectively infringing on the rights of the people in the GTA to a full and fair hearing at an environmental assessment panel. It's often been said, but it's worthy of repetition, that if the rights of any one of us are infringed, then the rights of all of us are infringed. I think all of us have to pay very close attention to what is happening here today and what kind of bill this government intends to put through.

The question of course that begs to be answered is, why is this government telling the people of the GTA that they cannot insist even on a consideration by the environmental assessment panel of the options of shipping and incineration? There's only one answer, of course, and that's because according to the NDP ideology, shipping and incineration are bad things, and anything that is labelled bad, ideologically speaking, cannot even be considered.

The problem of course, as we witnessed only recently in this House, is that what is bad today may not be bad tomorrow, because miraculously something that is bad could become good. I'll just give a couple of examples. In the past the NDP told us that casinos were bad. We've been told recently that they are good. In the past we were told that no-fault insurance was bad. Of late we're being told that it is something that is good. In the past the NDP made a campaign promise to eliminate nuclear generation of electricity in this province; it was bad, but today we are being told it is good. That's the kind of problem we get into when we approach these problems purely from an ideological perspective.

At present, according to the NDP ideology, shipping and incineration are bad, and that's a shame, because that "bad" label of course is not based on empirical data—the minister, to my knowledge, has not presented any such data—it's only based on her own and her party's ideological interpretation.

What is this government really saying in Bill 143? I'll tell you what it's saying. It's saying, "We don't really care if people are being denied their right to have the environmental assessment panel hear evidence on the options of shipping and incineration." It's saying: "We don't care if the people of Toronto want to send their garbage north. We don't care if the people of Kirkland Lake wish to receive that garbage. We don't care if the duly elected leaders of both those communities have entered into a lawful agreement to deal with Toronto's garbage. We don't care if that agreement is being made subject to an environmental assessment consideration. We don't care if 69% of the people of Kirkland Lake have voted to at least consider this proposal. We don't care if such an agreement, if it ever came to be, would have dramatic positive economic impacts in terms of employment, infrastructure and promoting a creative approach to dealing with our garbage."

1630

The bill is saying, "We don't care if incinerators can be fueled with carefully selected fuels." In the darn things you can burn organic waste, wood waste and methane which is generated from wasteful sites. It's important to understand that what comes out at the top of these darn things is a function of what you put in at the bottom.

The bill is also saying, "We don't care if incinerators recover the fourth R, the energy." When I make reference to recover, that's the fourth R. Sometimes we get hung up and kneel before the altar of the 3Rs: the holy trinity, the 3Rs. There are other options available to us and we shouldn't lose sight of that fact. One of them is the fourth R, when we can recover energy contained in the waste and convert it into electricity.

The bill is also saying, "We don't care if generating electricity through burning wood waste or methane gas, for instance, is better for the environment than the way Ontario Hydro generates electricity when it burns our traditional fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas."

It's interesting to note that when you burn wood it doesn't release sulphur dioxide, which contributes to acid rain, and when you burn wood it doesn't produce as much carbon dioxide. Therefore, it doesn't promote global warming to the same extent that do other traditional fossil fuels.

It's also important to note that two years ago, in an effort to achieve its acid rain limitations, Ontario Hydro purchased electricity from outside the province, from the United States, to comply with the law in existence. What we were doing was having the Americans generate electricity by burning fossil fuels. Of course, as we all well know, the waste that results from burning fossil fuels does not recognize international boundaries, and we eventually shared some of the downside of generating that electricity.

Finally, of course, this bill is saying, "We don't care if there are today two energy-from-waste incinerators operative in this province," both of which happen to have passed a stringent environmental assessment test. There are those, I am sure, who either inadvertently or deliberately will misconstrue what I'm saying here today. They're going to say that I'm pro-incineration or that I'm pro-shipping of garbage; in other words, that I'm saying incineration is necessarily a good thing or that shipping garbage is necessarily a good thing.

That's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that a responsible government which truly has the public interest at heart, not the interest of any particular subgroup of our public, a government that is not held hostage by its own ideology, will require that we consider the six options available to us when we're trying to deal objectively and impartially with a garbage problem. Those six options are: reducing our garbage, reusing and recycling whatever we can from that garbage, placing some of that garbage in a local site, incinerating garbage and shipping it.

It may be that environmental assessment panels in the future could find incineration and shipping to be an integral part of an environmentally sound waste management program, or it could be that they are not. The sad thing is we'll never know. We'll never know because this government is hamstrung by ideology and hardened by arrogance. It's telling us two things: first, "We know best," and second, "No, you the electorate can't have this issue addressed by the environmental assessment panel, an impartial body."

I note that the Environmental Monitor, an environmental polling agency—and that's the largest of its kind in Canada—recently found that 59% of Canadians believe incinerators are the safest way to dispose of our residual waste. By residual waste, I'm referring of course to the waste left after an aggressive use of the 3Rs.

There is one other feature of this bill I'm going to make reference to, and that is the fact that through some twisted logic, the minister reserves the right to herself order shipment of garbage outside one community and into

another. On behalf of the people of Ottawa-Carleton, I want to indicate how very concerned we are with the implications of that provision. Of course it would wreak havoc on all the plans that have gone into dealing with our local waste problem.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I think the comments made by the previous speaker were very appropriate, accurate and truthful. The member for Markham spoke at length and I thought his comments were equally reasonable and insightful.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): However.

Mr Stockwell: No, there's really no "however" in this debate. There isn't a "however." It really comes down to principle du jour.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia): Principle of the day. It's on the menu. What's the principle of the day?

Mr Stockwell: Exactly. It's very difficult to follow the progress of this government without a program, because it flip-flops like fish on a beach. Some of them were mentioned. I guess what I find most trying and difficult is putting up with the constant array of speakers from that side of the House who are nothing more than public apologists for what they've said in the past 20 years.

There used to be a time when they would stand in this House, and this bill is a prime example, dripping with sincerity and attacking anyone, be it a Conservative or Liberal, for not using the exact approach they suggested. If they didn't, they didn't care about the poor or they didn't care about the environment or they didn't care about the people.

Sitting here today and listening to the attempts at debate is very difficult for me. What makes it doubly difficult is that, coming from Metropolitan Toronto, I've had to listen to this kind of stuff since I was elected, some nine or 10 years. Finally seeing this party gain power and waffle, vacillate and, in some cases, simply do an about-face without debate on a number of issues that were planks and absolute principles sickens me. That's why I think having third reading on this bill is one of the most difficult things for the Minister of the Environment to put forward.

We can go into the broken promises. Of course we will all recall that they still dripped with sincerity when they called the previous Premier a liar five times before the last election for not fulfilling, among other things, his promise on auto insurance. He was a liar. If that Premier was a liar, what does that make this Premier? We had to watch a cabinet minister slander and libel a doctor, admit to lying, take a lie detector test to prove she lied and then stay in cabinet. It's a list of them as long as your arm. Today we see casino gambling. Nothing but, "Lotteries are a tax on the poor." What is casino gambling?

We're faced with Bill 143 today and we get into the Peel-York region debate and those poor souls who believed them, who bought it. You should be very proud of yourselves. You sucked them in. Isn't that wonderful? That's just wonderful. You should be proud of yourselves for sucking them in and winning government. So much for principles.

1640

At least there is one advantage to this. I will never have to listen to another sanctimonious speech from a member of that party on this side of the House for the rest of my life. I will simply reiterate, "1990-94," and they'll be quiet because they've sold out. While selling out, they sold out York and Peel.

I continue to go back to the NDP agenda for power, and I look into that. Do I see any of the promises made in the NDP agenda for power in this legislation? Do I see any of it? Of course not. It was never meant to be implemented. It was meant to get votes. You were always above getting votes; you were always above breaking promises. In that speech, on the front cover they had the audacity to suggest that people in Ontario are tired of politicians making promises and breaking promises.

I know how the cabinet ministers can do it. There's a lot more at stake for them to break with party right now. I don't know what's with the backbenchers. Surely there must be a spine over there somewhere.

I've known the Minister of the Environment for quite a while. I've known the Minister of the Environment as someone who has fought for the environment, for the public process, for the planning acts across this province. You've usurped every hope that citizens had with this legislation. You've usurped public process, you've usurped the Planning Act and you've said, "Tough on you; we're in charge now." That's awful. That's shameful. That's the socialist way.

Flip through this Agenda for People. It's almost worthless to debate the issue. You have members standing up who clearly don't understand the issue, saying that now it's time for Metropolitan Toronto to start acting like everybody else and keep the garbage within the GTA.

Tell me something, my friends across the floor. What about the half a million tons that are getting shipped to the United States every year? What are they, some kind of Third World nation? It's okay to ship it to the States, and they nod in agreement. Ship it to the States. They incinerate it and it comes back here. That's a tremendous environmental attitude. That wasn't okay when they were in opposition, dripping with sanctimony. My goodness, the soapbox is far to fall from, isn't it? You're still falling. You haven't hit ground yet.

We still hear daily, day in and day out, ministers standing up and defending casino gambling. It's hilarious. It's laughable; it's absolutely laughable. Have you no principles? Have you forgotten everything you stood for?

Now they suggest that it's okay, as part of this legislation, to expand a landfill site with not a minute of public hearing. I was one who often criticized the member for St Catharines when he was the minister. I would take the member for St Catharines in a second over what we have today. I would take the Conservative environmental critic and the Conservative ministers of the past in a second. They protected the people. You were the protectionists. You were the ones who were going to look after us. You were the ones who fought for the environment.

Mrs Caplan: Sold them out.

Mr Stockwell: "Sold them out" are not strong enough words.

This is a personal issue too. It's a personal issue because I sat on Metro Toronto council and I am insulted at the suggestion from the minister who said we did not take our responsibility seriously. That is painfully untrue. We knew what the problems were. We were trying to resolve them.

There is some degree of hope, because you know what's going to happen. The minister will issue her list—I'm joyful she's coming back in. You will issue your list, Madam Minister. We know what's on your list. All those sites that Metropolitan Toronto was looking at are on your list. We know they're on your list, and you're going to have to go out and explain why they're on your list and why you started studying them all over again at a cost of millions and millions of tax dollars. Explain it.

We didn't hear in the campaign about expansion of Peel and Keele Valley. We didn't hear about the draconian acts they were going to perpetrate on private property when it came to expropriating it for landfill sites. We didn't hear about that. You know what we heard about from these environmentalists? We heard about safe, clean water. Where's that legislation, Madam Minister? We heard about less garbage and returnable pop cans. Where's that legislation? We heard about zero discharge. Where's that legislation?

We heard the dripping, sanctimonious speeches about the environmental bill of rights. Where is that, Mr Speaker? That's in a blue box somewhere. It's a year and a half, Madam Minister. You wrote two pieces of legislation you told governments to pass. Why is it taking you 18 months when you had the legislation drafted?

I know what the people in Kirkland Lake were saying, and I know there were some opposed, but to have a member from the north stand up and suggest that the citizens and the politicians in Metropolitan Toronto are going to have to live by the rules and keep their own garbage—let me tell the member from northern Ontario something. We have bailed out more regions in southern Ontario than he cares to mention. It's called bailing out. When they did not have landfill sites, we took their garbage and we put it in our landfill site. We bailed them out. We had a conscience; we were doing our best.

You're finding the situation a little more difficult than the glib, one-sentence responses that you gave previous governments and the one-paragraph, cheap political stunts that you put forward in your Agenda for People. This is not a debate about Bill 143; this is not a debate about the environment any more. This is not a debate about casino gambling. This is a debate about the sellout NDP in Ontario. This doesn't even deal with legislation any more. This deals with: How low will they go?

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): I hardly know where to begin, having listened to some of the rewriting of history that has taken place this afternoon in this House. Where I will begin is perhaps in 1972. This issue goes back that far. Actually, it goes back farther than that, but 1972 is a good place to start because it was just about that time that the residents in my community began to become

aware that they would be inundated with the odours and the smells of Metro's garbage even more than they had been for the 13 to 18 previous years when they had to endure the Beare Road landfill site. That's just inside Scarborough but right on the boundary of Pickering and Scarborough, so the prevailing winds would send the odours through to my residents' community.

It's a good place to start because it indicates a number of things. There were a number of things happening in my community at that time. We had the federal Liberals expropriating somewhere in the neighbourhood of 18,000 acres. We had the provincial Tories expropriating 23,000 acres of land for airports and communities, all with no hearings, all with no recourse to the public. In this incubus of turmoil is the beginning of my political awareness and my political career in terms of what it means to have Liberal and Tory rights defended in the political milieu.

Needless to say, the draconian measures to expropriate the land in north Pickering did not come even close to the standards that these two parties now espouse, which is wonderful, because I am happy to see that they have had this conversion on the road to opposition.

Now, the reason this begins is because you have to start looking at Brock West, the landfill that's in Pickering now. It is terribly mismanaged by Metropolitan Toronto. Even their own engineers have condemned it in their records and in their submissions to Metro.

1650

This idea of expropriation and the idea that Metro has the right to expropriate from other communities is something I find a little abhorrent. In Bill 143, which we are debating this afternoon, an element of the expropriation has changed. What has changed is that no land can be expropriated unless a certificate of approval for the landfill site has first been given. For my residents, this is a huge relief. No matter what the opposition says, they've experienced the wrongful expropriation of land in the past. This says to them that no matter how many sites are listed, that land will not be unduly expropriated and then used for something else, as is the case with the north Pickering land assembly and the federal lands, which are just being addressed as a problem today.

Within this bill is the defence of people's rights with respect to expropriation. This is a change that has been made and a change that reduces the rights of the current government to expropriate property under the old rules. It is a contraction of these rights. Let the viewing audience and my fellow members know that my residents are well aware of the draconian powers the government has to expropriate, and in this case this bill has reduced them.

I'd like to talk a little about the Interim Waste Authority and about landfills. There was no Interim Waste Authority, there were no criteria and there was nothing to define what would be a reasonably good place for a landfill site. I use the words "reasonably good" because there is no "good" place. There is no landfill site that will not leak, including the Kirkland Lake pit that was clearly indicated to leak at the rate of 14 inches a year through what was supposed to be impermeable rock. So I use that advisedly: It's reasonably good. There were no criteria, so what hap-

pened was that they picked some very bad sites. The Brock West landfill site is right beside Duffins Creek. In fact, some of that landfill site has slipped into Duffins Creek on occasion and has had to be rehabilitated. So there is no good place for a landfill site.

Brock North, which contains 143,000 tonnes of Metro's garbage, just to the northeast of Brock West, leaches thousands of litres per day that have to be taken by tanker truck to a sewage treatment plant. My community is not enough—Beare Road, Brock West, Brock North—but Metro came back and wanted it to go to Brock South, sitting right beside Duffins Creek just a bit farther down the road. This was intolerable to the community. They rose up almost as one and said: "No, we're not going to do this. We're not going to accept this."

The history is that we've had enough. My predecessor who held this seat probably regaled that party on an ongoing basis with the horrors of the Brock West landfill sites and the odours and the contamination that the people of Pickering had to experience. But what did they do? They came back and behind closed doors decided they were going to put another landfill site, P1, in the north end of Pickering—no criteria, no opportunity for it to be compared against other landfill sites to see if it really was the best, no Environmental Assessment Act hearing, abbreviated Environmental Protection Act, and no possibility that it would be rejected, because it was the only site and the only game in town. What's more, it was on government-owned property that had previously been expropriated 20 years earlier by a Tory government that didn't care about people's rights. It's nice that they're the third party now, because they have since changed their position and are much more concerned about people's rights.

My residents know what it means to have their rights taken away at the P1 site. What is also interesting about this debate is that the honourable member from North Bay, the leader of the third party, came to Whitevale and made a really interesting speech.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Yes, I'll bet he did.

Mr Wiseman: Oh, it was. Don't be so cynical. What the member said to the residents of Whitevale was that the Progressive Conservative Party would not support the P1 site without a full Environmental Assessment Act hearing. We applauded that; even I applauded that.

Mr Cousens: Your hands don't come together except over your—

Mr Wiseman: Yes, it was more like this: one-handed applause. If their position has now changed, then the residents of Whitevale would be rather interested. But within the context of naming the P1 site, the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee talked about interim sites, talked about site 6B, talked about M2 and M3 in the Rouge Valley, talked about a lift on Keele Valley, talked about having an Environmental Protection Act hearing on Kirkland Lake, at the same time as running an Environmental Assessment Act hearing on Kirkland Lake for long-term garbage disposal. I don't know how they would manage to do

that; one seems to be intimating that the other doesn't really matter.

So we have this problem. The position of this government was that in taking over the office it decided, and I applaud the minister for this, to say that the opening of greenfield sites under the Environmental Protection Act hearings was unacceptable, and therefore put a full environmental assessment on site 6B and P1, at which point both Durham and Peel removed the sites from the table, leaving what appeared to be and is a shortfall in capacity.

I have to say that I have a great deal of compassion and a great deal of sympathy for the residents of Vaughan and Maple because I know what they've gone through, I know what they've had to suffer at the hands of Metro. However, what's interesting is that Keele Valley is a much better-run site. What's interesting is that they say there will be no hearings on any of these sites, but in fact on Britannia the minister's reports specify that studies will have to be done, and these studies make up the essence of an Environmental Protection Act hearing—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Durham West has the floor. He is being provocative, and I am sure all members do not agree, but you will have the opportunity of participating.

Mr Wiseman: I obviously must be grating on them, because they were quiet for a lot of the other speeches and yet they have kept this din up through my entire attempt to reacquaint them with the history as it actually happened. While these are not the most satisfactory situations to be in, they are the best situations that now exist.

I would like to draw to the members' attention that the leachate from the Keele Valley landfill site is taken care of through the Durham-York sewer system, which winds up about a quarter to half a mile away from my front door in the Duffins Creek sewage treatment plant. So it is not without a great deal of concern that I see the involvement of the Keele Valley site. This is not an action that I take easily.

In the interest of fairness, I'm going to terminate my remarks to allow others in my party to have their say. In conclusion, though, I applaud the minister for this, and if the Metropolitan Toronto council had even considered listening to what was said by the Pickering-Ajax Citizens Together and other environmental groups in 1988, we wouldn't be in this position right now, because what we have in this bill is an example of what we said should happen back in 1988. They chose to ignore it.

1700

Mr Sorbara: I would just say to my friend the member for Durham West that we wouldn't be in this situation today had the people not voted the way they did back on September 6, 1990. I'm sorry, but that was the only mistake that was made.

We are now coming to the conclusion, third reading, of the most draconian piece of legislation, the most arbitrary piece of legislation, the most insensitive piece of legislation and the most dictatorial piece of legislation that I have personally seen in the seven years I have sat in this Parlia-

ment and in the years before that when I practised law and periodically used to have to look at legislation.

There has been all sorts of debate now, volumes and volumes of Hansard on this bill, but as I listen to third reading debate, not one of the speakers has really addressed the singular issue. There is only one issue in this bill, and it is this, sir: Shall the rights of the people of Ontario to participate and have a say in the difficult decisions about where we dispose of our garbage be withdrawn from the people? In relation to that, shall we have a bill that replaces the process of public hearing and examination of science and study with the arbitrary right of one politician, the Minister of the Environment, to determine where the garbage shall be dumped?

That is all this bill does. It takes away the rights of the people and it places Her Majesty the Czar of the Environment in the place of the people and in the place of the hearing process that we have up until this evening at 6 o'clock, when this will become law. Instead of asking those who understand how best to dispose of garbage to involve themselves in the process, this bill says, "I, Ruth Grier, have determined, on my own accord and after talking with my political cronies, that Metro's garbage is going in York region." That is all it says. It is a simple declaration: The garbage shall go in York region.

It doesn't matter if there is a better site somewhere else in the millions of square miles that make up Ontario. It doesn't matter if the scientists have a better process than dumping it in the ground—"outhouse technology," as I describe it. None of that matters. This bill is the declaration of one arbitrary demagogue that says: "I shall decide. To hell with democracy. To hell with participation. To hell with the rights of the people. To hell with the science. To hell with the studies. To hell with anything other than my right to decide."

There is only one good thing to say about this bill, and that is that it will bring down a government that is so quickly losing the trust of the people that it sets a new standard in Ontario for the loss of trust. The conflict-of-interest issue and the lying of a minister now become a standard accepted by this Parliament.

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry. This place does have a code of standard for language, and the honourable member knows that. The word "lying," please.

Mr Sorbara: Just in response, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines took a lie detector test to prove that on an occasion at a cocktail party in Thunder Bay, she lied about a physician in Ontario. I am just reiterating what the minister herself said.

We have new standards of conduct for ministers. We have a Premier who used to preach about greed and about speculation—we were going to have a speculation tax—and who now says: "We have to study casinos in Ontario, because they may do it in the US or they may do it in Quebec. We have to study that." There are no principles left here, sir. This government is driven simply by a desire to effect whatever it is that its members, in their private counsels, determine they should do in order to get re-elected.

Bill 143 will stand as a symbol of a government that has lost the trust of the people. In that purely political respect, this is good news, because it will bring down this government. When the czarina of the environment identifies her 50 sites, those communities will rise up and say, "You have no right, notwithstanding your legislation." They will fight, because you don't take away democratic rights with just one bill rammed through on a timetable established by the ministry. Is democracy that feeble? Are the rights of the people that weak? Do you think that just because they are going to be forced to vote for this this afternoon, the people will sit down and say: "Our rights are gone. It doesn't matter now. You can put it there or you can put it there. Wherever Ruth says it should go, that's fine." Is that the estimation of this New Democratic Party? Is this the new democracy? Is this what the people voted for?

When the Premier stood at the edge of the Keele Valley landfill site and said, "No expansion here without a full environmental assessment," did the people not believe him? Some of them there said: "Yes, that's right. We're going to vote for you."

The people will rise up. The people won't tolerate this. In that respect, it doesn't matter what we do here. The power in a democracy to respond to arbitrary, dictatorial measures like this far outweighs what the Minister of the Environment thinks should be done. It's not a question of incineration. It's not a question of Kirkland Lake. It's a question of establishing a process to deal fairly and equitably with difficult issues.

I have no idea why they abandoned it. But it will defeat them, that and the member for Sudbury East, casino gambling and a whole host of other things. Some people want it. Some people wanted a driver-owned automobile system and voted for them. They said yes; our party said, "We're not going to have that." Those who wanted that said, "Yes, we'll vote for them."

After the election: "My goodness, the Liberal plan that David Peterson had—and we called him a liar about his plan—actually, I think we'll stick with that." If you do that, you lose the trust of the people.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Really, I have two points of order according to the standing rules. One is that we're debating Bill 143 and not auto insurance. Second, the use of the word "liar" in the member's speech was unparliamentary.

The Acting Speaker: That's not a point of order. You may not agree. I've been listening very closely and I have reprimanded the honourable member. I believe he is attempting to stick with parliamentary language. I hope he continues.

Mr Sorbara: We're debating Bill 143, but more than that, I tell my friend, we are debating the state of a province that has a government that has lost the trust of the people, not so much because of what it has done, but because it can no longer be trusted. Holding an elected office is a matter of taking the public trust and acting on behalf of the people. Once you start to pick away at that, the clock is ticking, my friend. This bill will defeat you. This bill will

be talked about in every council and every meeting about environmental issues. It sets a standard for arbitrariness. It sets a standard for dictatorial powers. It will bring you down. The very sad news, my friends, I tell all of you, the sad tragedy is that it was unnecessary.

The good news is that it won't work. The people will rise up. The people will not tolerate it, not the people of York region, not the people of Peel, not the people of Durham, not the people of the province. On this sad day when this bill is being rammed through, that is the one piece of good news I would report to the House: This government will die on this bill.

1710

Mr Tilson: I have only a few minutes to comment. The member for Etobicoke West and the member for Markham have expressed the views of our party adequately, but I have a couple of thoughts I'd like to put forward to the House which express the concerns of some of the members of the rural community of the province of Ontario.

Much of this bill, of course, concentrates on the greater Toronto area, but members of the rural community are concerned as to how much it's going to cost the people of Ontario to find sites. They'd like to know where the sites are. Are they in the GTA or are they outside the GTA? Who's going to pay for them? Where are they? Who's going to get the tippage fees? Will the municipalities have any waste management control? All of those matters concern the municipalities outside the GTA.

They're also concerned why the subject of incineration hasn't been debated, not whether they're for or against it, but why won't they even at least consider that subject? Why won't they consider the subject of commuting waste to other parts of the province? Why is that subject not even considered specifically when parts of the province are prepared to take it?

Very briefly I'd like to read a typical letter I have received from a municipality in my riding, from the reeve of the township of Melancthon—just part of the letter—which expressed some of his concerns on Bill 143. I think it adequately expresses many of the municipal politicians in my riding.

"Under Bill 143, inspectors would have the right to trespass on private property in the search for possible landfill sites. What has happened to the rights of property owners?"

"Bill 143 would allow other municipalities to make carte blanche use of neighbouring municipal landfill sites. After dictating where the landfill would be located, the financial onus would be the responsibility of the receiving township to collect and transport waste from another municipality. Thereafter, limited disposal options would be available as the municipality would be told how waste management systems should be implemented.

"Bill 143, if passed, will be precedent-setting. The NDP government has adopted a thou-shalt approach which cannot be tolerated. Their steamrolling attitude cannot be permitted to extend any further. Taxpayers and voters will not forget the NDP government's newly assumed role as dictator in the next provincial election."

It's signed by the deputy reeve of the township of Melancthon.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): It's a privilege to be part of this debate. As a member of the social development committee that had the privilege to visit Kirkland Lake in the middle of February and see the wonderful people who came out on both sides of the question, I might add, it has been a very interesting time for me.

I want to at least take a few minutes to respond to some comments made earlier. One of those people who did speak was the member for Mississauga North. He raised some issues around the buffer zone between the landfill site and the urban environment. I really am very concerned about the kind of development he is proposing. Living in the city, as I do myself, and aware that not very far from me is good agricultural land, I have to concur with not only the minister but a number of members within our caucus about the need to preserve agricultural land and to seriously take into consideration the concerns of that rural community and the urban shadow community about the development that could conceivably take place.

We really have to look at better planning and infilling as options for urban centres, not just unbridled development, as has happened in some areas in and around the GTA. I strongly support any actions taken by this government or any other government, I might add, that really and truly mean better planning for the province. I believe the criteria the Interim Waste Authority will be using will respond to the concerns within Durham, York, Peel and Metro.

Another member raised the issue of incineration. I find it interesting that those members who participated on that committee, the member for Markham being one—I'm sorry to say that the member for Mississauga South isn't here today because her concerns around incineration really are mine as well. They were reflected by a number of the deputants who came before us. How many of us really and truly want to live underneath that kind of a smokestack?

She so ably represented her constituents when a cement company came forward and made the proposal that fuel derived from waste was the only way to go, because she asked those very same questions: "Each and every day of the year, if an incinerator is in place, do you want to be deluged by lead, mercury, cadmium and a range of other toxic heavy metals which in turn have long, cumulative health effects, which most of the companies like Ogden Martin have been totally dishonest about?"

I think we really have to commend members like the member for Mississauga South who has expressed a very differing view from some members of her caucus. Definitely those of us who are in the government caucus have taken a very strong view, one which may not always be popular with some of the business community, but we have had that principle. Unlike some members here who have said we have not got any principles, in fact those principles are strongly held and they have been maintained despite a very expensive lobby that a number of these companies have definitely engaged in.

When the committee went to Kirkland Lake, we were told there was going to be a very large demonstration. It is my view, as someone who was there, that the newspaper report was somewhat inflated, because there were not 800 citizens out watching the opposition members do their thing. I would say again a selective memory is showing itself.

I would hasten to point out to all those people watching and to remind those people in Kirkland Lake who may be watching this at some point today or this evening that the two Conservative members who were sitting with that panel decided to leave early. In fact, they did not hear all the deputants. They did not hear all the technical data that were presented by those people who were in opposition.

It was very clear that Mayor Mavrincac, the mayor of Kirkland Lake, had a very willing ear, but those people who might have had a different view did not really get their full attention. I really consider that despicable. I understand they had other commitments, but I also feel there was an obligation for all of us, especially with the comments that have been made here, to be giving our full attention.

I think it is also rather interesting that I was given the Ontario Recycling Update in the mail today. I want to allow the minister some time to wrap up, but I think it is really important that we take into account some of the comments made by the recycling industry:

"The city of Toronto is considering a reduction in recycling service, apparently to save money. Bad thinking; false economy. Why not cut garbage collection back to once weekly like almost every other city in North America?"

"Incineration of Municipal Waste: Sure, there can be exceptions, but mostly it's clearly 'resource destruction,' not a 1990s solution to waste management problems. Landfill in the sky? We don't need it in Ontario."

I support Bill 143, because I don't want my community to be considered a waste dump for Toronto garbage. I think it's time that Toronto took the responsibility for its own garbage, which it has successfully imposed on the citizens of Ontario time and time again.

1720

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I'll be very brief. There are three points I want to make in this debate, carrying on in part from the comments that were made by my colleague the member for York Centre.

The first one, for those of us who live in the region of York, has to do with the arbitrariness of the decision in terms of where Metro Toronto's garbage is going to go. The gamut of choice is limited to York region, and York region alone. I say that after having examined carefully the fact that where I am and in the areas I come from, undoubtedly there are many prospective sites that are going to be looked at by the government in terms of placing future waste disposal sites there.

I think everybody would agree that if we have a process that is fair, that is equitable, that is able to analyse all of the relevant data, then that is a process at the end of the day where we can say, "Fine, here is the selection that has been made; we can support that." But that is not a principle

that we find in this bill. In that case, the arbitrariness of that decision is bad public policy.

The second point I want to make is on what has happened to the relationships between the government and the municipalities in the greater Toronto area around this issue, because I think they've been done tremendous harm. I have in front of me a letter that was sent this week by the regional chairs of Durham, of York, of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and by the mayor of the city of Vaughan setting out the concerns they continue to have about Bill 143 in what I think is a very clear way, in a way which wants to be cooperative, which wants to work with the minister.

They have three principal objections to the bill. First, there is no garbage crisis in the GTA that proper management procedures cannot handle. Second, the Environmental Assessment Act needs to apply and all the various options need to be considered. No one is saying it should be done by incineration; no one is saying the garbage has to go north or to any other place. But what is being said is that there must be a real and meaningful assessment of the options. That does not happen. Finally, under this legislation the province is able to move in, to dictate to municipalities, to ensure that they incur costs wherein they will not have any say in terms of how much they're going to have to pay or how that is going to happen. In terms of the kinds of issues that we see we are going to have to be working with between the province and the municipalities, this introduces again an element in the legislation of arbitrariness, of dictation. It is bad public policy.

The final point I want to make in terms of this bill is this government's apparent all-consuming intent to deal only with process. Whether we're looking at the Minister of Education's statement yesterday in terms of labour-management relations, whether we're looking at the Minister of Community and Social Services trying to take over the day care sector and not use the moneys where the needs are, if we look at the kind of process that is set out here, which runs roughshod over citizens' rights and over proper involvement of municipalities, all of those principles say this is bad public policy that should not go forward. We know it is because they have the votes, but frankly this is one of the most difficult pieces of legislation, and I think one of the poorest, that is being forced through this assembly. I think we're all going to come to regret what this has done.

The Acting Speaker: Under time allocation the Progressive Conservative Party has run out of time. We will continue with the official opposition.

Mr Mahoney: Briefly as well, to ensure that our critic has an opportunity to put forward some very thoughtful comments, I first of all would like to congratulate the member for Brampton North, who I think has done a tremendous job on behalf of this party in leading the debate in following this bill.

I want to respond to the comments of the member for St Catharines-Brock about the planning process and her reference to my colleague the member for Mississauga North and her fears about the kind of development that he

sees around the Britannia sanitary landfill site. We call it a dump. It just boggles my mind and frightens me to think that the member for St Catharines-Brock, who I'm sure wouldn't have a clue where the Britannia dump even is, would have the temerity to comment on the planning process in the city of Mississauga, a community that has grown phenomenally over the past 15 to 20 years, with really, quite frankly, excellent planning principles, with citizen involvement—

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: You don't know the first thing about it either, member for Durham West—with citizen involvement in a process through the city council, the current mayor and many members of council, I having been one of them and my wife currently serving in that capacity. For her to have the audacity to suggest that the kind of planning we're talking about in an urban community is wrong—she simply doesn't know what she's talking about.

Let me tell you that what the people around Britannia are afraid of is you, Madam Minister. They're afraid of you, with the powers that go with this bill, coming in and simply saying to them: "We're going to create" what they refer to as "son of Britannia. We're going to create a new dump site in Mississauga to solve problems elsewhere."

You know, this is really not just a Keele Valley problem or just a problem for Durham or just a problem for Peel. This is a problem we all have to recognize needs a solution and we should be looking within our own communities to solve our own problems.

Mississauga took the responsibility in 1978 of accepting all of Peel's garbage. We did so under an agreement with the citizens around Britannia that it would be for a limited, 12-year period. That time period is being violated. This minister and this government don't care about those commitments that were made by the regional and local councils of the day, and they have simply ignored the fact that Peel regional council was well down the road to going through the process and indeed would be very close to opening a dump site within its own boundaries that would solve its problem.

Mr Wiseman: Bradley cancelled it. Bradley cancelled 6A.

Mr Mahoney: He didn't cancel that. This government has come in with this legislation, and people who get so parochial that they say, "Don't put the problem on my doorstep"—which is exactly what we're hearing, instead of turning around and saying: "We are prepared to deal with our problems within our communities. We understand that you have to have some kind of process in place that satisfies the needs of the people concerned, all of us concerned about the environment, but also recognizes the fact that we create garbage within our own communities." We had done that in Peel. This government came along, pulled the plug and said it was going to take over.

Now I want to take you a little bit down the road to the meeting this minister goes to to announce the number of sites that have been identified in the region of Peel. Think of the players. One of them will be a lady this minister is

very familiar with and will get to know even better if she dares to push her will on the city of Mississauga, and that's our mayor. I want to be there when the current minister—

Interjection: I think you will be.

Mr Mahoney: —and I think I will be—attempts to tell the current mayor of the city of Mississauga that you are going to expand Britannia, that you are going to create son of Britannia or that you have decided in your wisdom that the new dump's going in Erin Mills. I want to be there to watch the blood on the walls, and you can rest assured, Minister, it will be your blood that will be on the walls, not Hazel McCallion's and surely not ours, and it is going to be a process of immense interest. You are taking on a responsibility with this bill where, frankly, you know not the severity and the problems you're going to be facing. I don't wish you well, but I do warn you, so that at least forewarned is forearmed, to go into the valley of garbage in Mississauga with great trepidation and great care, Minister, because you will pay the price in spades.

1730

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): In the few minutes we have left one could not begin to canvass the various secondary, if you will, and ancillary issues that are related to the substantive elements of Bill 143. They are many, but the member for York Centre really boiled it down to what I believe. He says there's one central ingredient to this bill, and I believe there happen to be two. He boiled it down to one. He said it was the demonstration of the government's intention to allow the arbitrary removal of the rights of citizens of Ontario that they have come to expect and moreover came to believe and were duped into believing the government of the day, the NDP, would support.

There was so much rhetoric from members opposite when they were in opposition about how they believed in people's rights. The member for York Centre is absolutely correct when he says what Bill 143 is essentially about is a denial and betrayal of the trust that was invested in the government and the Minister of the Environment who used to fight for people and for environmental integrity and who has abandoned that because she wants to do something that's expedient and convenient for her and her government.

That's an essential ingredient in this bill and that is why when the member for Etobicoke West put questions to the minister in committee of the whole and said, "Tell me how it is that you broke your promise and why can you stand in your place and repeat the broken promise time after time?" the minister did one of two things. She chose to walk out of this place and have some little conference with her staff or backbench colleagues and, from time to time, grin and kind of laugh it off or she would just simply sit in her place and refuse to acknowledge the question put to her by the member for Etobicoke West.

The reason is because she can't answer that question with any sense of dignity at all. You cannot stand in your place, Madam Minister, and tell the people of this province how it is you broke the promise given by yourself and by the Premier. You refused to do that and you refused to even acknowledge that those questions were put to you.

I know what will happen in your wrapup speech, when you begin in about seven minutes' time. You will stand in your place and you will talk about a conserver society. You will talk about environmental ideals. You will talk about recycling. You will talk about people taking care of their own problems and beginning to work together on solving them. All of that is well and good, but it is empty rhetoric. It is as empty as the promises that you made and gave and as empty as the promises of your Premier. At the end of the day they're meaningless words.

My friend the member for York Centre has been absolutely correct in identifying one of the central issues, that you have chosen to override fundamental rights that people have fought for long and hard in terms of environmental law in this province.

The other issue I think central to Bill 143 is the matter of integrity. When we were in committee and the minister and I were having our exchange, she got very upset and said she was angered by my playing fast and loose with allegations of broken promises. But it comes down to that, Minister. It comes down to a matter of integrity. You stood on the pedestal of moral uprightness. You were better than everybody else and you had all the answers.

In opposition you provided the quick answers and said that you would at all costs maintain integrity in terms of what you stood for, what your government stands for and in terms of environmental law. And what do you do? You come in here, you become minister and suddenly that goes out the window. It doesn't matter any more because you have to do what is expedient and reserve unto yourself the right to dictate solutions to municipalities across this province.

Mark my words, this is a greater Toronto area bill but the implications will be visited upon every municipality across the province of Ontario because the Minister of the Environment has chosen to take upon herself the position of being a demagogue and saying: "I know what's best. I alone have all the answers and the people of Ontario who want to participate and have a right to participate don't matter any more because now I'm in charge. They used to matter, they used to matter when I wanted to get from over here to over there, but now that I'm over there it does not matter any more and I will do what I believe to be right because I am the possessor of all wisdom."

The fact of the matter is that none of us in here is a repository of all wisdom. The people of Ontario have a right to participate. They will not, as the member for York Centre said, sit down and take this lightly. They will rise up and you will regret the day that you rammed this through and forced this bill on your time allocation motion without consideration of the people of the province of Ontario.

Two-hundred-plus delegations appeared before the committee and dozens more submitted their submissions in writing. The government said that it listened. That was one of the biggest shams. That statement is as hollow and empty as the promises given in the 1990 election. It's as hollow and empty as the promises given by the now minister as to how the cornerstone of her environmental agenda would be in an environmental bill of rights.

Where is it? It's nowhere to be found. Do you know why? Because the environmental bill of rights that was drafted by the minister in opposition, which she could table today or any other day if she wanted to, is diametrically opposed to Bill 143. They are totally irreconcilable and even the minister, who has apparently abandoned all and has no shame left any more, probably can't even screw up enough courage to come forward with an environmental bill of rights at this time because even she would be embarrassed, given the context of what the environmental bill of rights would say, in trying to put that in place with Bill 143 before this Legislative Assembly.

Bill 143 could not stand if the environmental bill of rights did, and the minister knows that. We had a late show here one night. I believe you were sitting in the chair. Did the minister answer the question? No, she didn't. Did she talk about the environmental bill of rights? No, she didn't. She talked about the same thing she's going to spend her next seven minutes talking about: all the nice, honey-dripped rhetoric and platitudes that are as hollow as one could ever imagine. They're as hollow as the promises given.

Madam Minister, you can couch it in any terms you want. You will turn on all your charm in the next seven minutes, as you are very capable of doing, and you will do it as you go from place to place across this province. But you will not, and I challenge you to do it, address two fundamental issues: What happened to the promises you gave and what happened to the promises the Premier gave?

Where have your principles and integrity gone? Where are they now? What happened on making the move from over here, where the member for Oriole now sits, to where you're sitting now? What happened in that little transition? An awful lot seemed to happen. I think the biggest thing that happened was that you forgot why and how you got there. At the end of the day you will be accountable for that. The member for York Centre put it so well, that if there's any good news that can come out of the passage of Bill 143, it is that people will begin to recognize, as it has already been evident, that your word is not worth what we believed it was.

Interjection: The emperor has no clothes.

Mr McClelland: As my friend says, the empress is being seen to be what she is. You stand glaringly exposed for what you are doing here today, which you cannot in any way reconcile with what you've said.

Mr Speaker, I understand that you believe I was going to wrap up. I know the member for Oriole wants to make some closing comments.

Madam Minister, I challenge you to answer those questions in seven minutes if you can. What happened to your promises? Where has your integrity gone?

Mrs Caplan: What we have heard about Bill 143 could fill a book when it comes to rhetoric, but the betrayal of the people of this province has just begun. Some of my constituents have said to me, "Elinor, I believe the NDP are sanctimonious hypocrites." When it comes to Bill 143, the Minister of the Environment has proved that is exactly—

Mr Bisson: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The words she has used are quite unparliamentary, and I would ask for a retraction.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I was listening carefully and it was a quotation from a constituent. In other words, it was not the member making an accusation of another member. The member has 40 seconds.

Mrs Caplan: After the display of this unfortunate piece of legislation, I certainly can understand how some of my constituents would come to that conclusion. This bill does not find the best environmental solution. This bill takes the principles that we have all held dear under the Environmental Assessment Act, trashes them and sends them to the landfill. It says to the people, "You have no rights." The rhetoric from the minister around this piece of legislation belies all the promises and trashes the integrity, not only of herself, which I'm sorry to say is unfortunate, but of the NDP government when it comes to environmental solutions.

The Speaker: The time allotted to the official opposition has expired.

1740

Hon Mrs Grier: I appreciate the courtesy of the members of the opposition in arranging the rotation so that I did have the opportunity to have six minutes to wrap up what has been an extremely long debate that has now gone on since this legislation was first introduced last fall. It has been an exhaustive debate. It has been on many occasions an exhausting debate, but I think it has been a good debate.

Let me say now, before I am reminded by the opposition, that I think the hearings added very much to the debate and were worth doing. I am glad that the opposition parties, in their negotiations with our House leader, achieved the fact that there would be hearings on this bill, because it has certainly been a helpful contribution to the debate, and what all of us have learned—whether or not we all learned it, certainly some of us learned during those hearings—has strengthened the bill because of the amendments we were able to introduce in committee that I think have made the bill a better bill.

Let me also say that the fact that the committee travelled to Kirkland Lake provided an opportunity for members on all sides to hear all sides of the opinions on that particular issue. The fact that it allowed the citizens of Kirkland Lake to ice me in effigy was, I think, a first. Ministers have been burned in effigy, ministers have been trashed in effigy. Only in northern Ontario could a minister be iced in effigy. I take that as perhaps a compliment or whatever.

Let me use the opportunity to thank all members of the standing committee on social development for their contribution to the debate, and let me particularly thank the members on our side, led by my parliamentary assistant, the member for Durham-York, and others, for their patience, their hard work and their courtesy and civility. I was very proud to have members of the delegations who appeared in opposition to this legislation say to me how much they appreciated the courteous hearing they received from the members on our side of the committee. The fact that our

members were there, were consistent in their attendance and participated and questioned intelligently made it a lot better process than might otherwise have occurred, and that they did not indulge in perhaps some of the flights of extreme rhetoric that we've been subjected to in this House this week.

Let me talk very briefly about that, because I was struck by the member for York Centre who said on Tuesday that this was "the worst piece of environmental legislation ever put before a Legislature in the history of Canada and, I suggest, North America." That kind of extremist statement does nothing to add to the debate. Perhaps the best that can be said for it was that at least he didn't describe it as world class, which were the words he used to describe everything when he was in government.

When I hear the flights of rhetoric that we heard from our friends to the far right in the debate today, I want to read to them from an editorial in the Oakville Beaver just this month. It said: "Think how much money Halton taxpayers could have saved over the years if only the Tories had kept their politics out of Halton's search for a landfill site. Their political games easily cost Halton taxpayers over \$100 million. We have to agree with Mike Harris that the approval process for landfill sites must be shortened, but we must remind him that the whole mess is his party's fault."

What we have today at the end of Earth Week is the passage into legislation of the most comprehensive piece of waste management legislation that has ever been brought before this Legislature, a piece of legislation that will establish a body within the greater Toronto area to search for landfill sites and to submit those landfill sites to an environmental assessment process. The choice of those sites will be made impartially and on environmental criteria, because I would remind the members of this House that the search for landfill sites has been in the past a political search and that has, in so many instances, led to the failure of the process.

What this government is doing, and what I'm very proud this government is doing, is putting the environment first, making sure that the decisions that are taken are environmental decisions, and that non-environmental solutions such as incineration, such as the long-range transportation of waste, are not on the table any longer. By putting the environment first, you seek solutions that contribute to the improvement and protection of the environment. That is a very important part of this legislation, that we begin to establish the foundation for a conservator society, that we begin to put in place the structures, the institutions and the regulations that will allow reduction, reuse and recycling to govern our management of waste; not, as has happened so often in the past, politics, rhetoric, short-term solutions that have led to the crises that we are in place to solve. I'm sorry the municipalities within the GTA want to persist in short-term solutions and persist in saying there is no crisis. There is a crisis, and this legislation—

Interjections.

Mrs Caplan: That's false.

The Speaker: We don't accuse other members of telling falsehoods. Would the member for Oriole please withdraw the remark.

Mrs Caplan: The reality of the situation is that many of the statements are false, clearly false. The people of this province are upset because the statements being made—

The Speaker: I ask the member for Oriole to reflect carefully on—

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the House to come to order.

I would ask the member for Oriole to reflect on what has just occurred. The member will know that we do not accuse other members of telling falsehoods. I would ask that she consider what she has said, and if she would simply withdraw the remark which was, unfortunately, unparliamentary.

Mrs Caplan: It's very difficult in this House to find words to describe the frustration we feel when we know the information is not factual. I will replace the word "false" with "not factual."

The Speaker: That's somewhat helpful. It would really be helpful if on all occasions members would simply say "I withdraw."

The member for Durham-York moved, in the absence of the minister, third reading of Bill 143. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

1756

The House divided on the motion for third reading, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—55

Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp;

Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mills, Morrow, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Rae, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziembra.

Nays—25

Arnott, Beer, Callahan, Caplan, Carr, Cousens, Cunningham, Fawcett, Hamick, Jordan, Mahoney, McClelland, McGuinty, Miclash, Offer, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Sola, Sorbara, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio): Pursuant to standing order 53, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the following week.

On Monday, April 27, we will consider third reading of Bill 28, class proceedings, and Bill 29, the Law Society Amendment Act. We will give committee of the whole House consideration and third reading to Bill 136, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Statute Law Amendment Act.

On Tuesday, April 28, we will consider an opposition motion by Mr Elston.

On Wednesday, April 29, we will give third reading and consideration to Bill 86, the Gasoline Tax Amendment Act, and Bill 130, the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act.

On Thursday, April 30, in the morning we will deal with private members' public business: ballot item 3 standing in the name of Mr Carr, and ballot item 4 standing in the name of Mr Winninger. In the afternoon we will con-

tinue with third reading consideration of Bill 86, the Gasoline Tax Amendment Act, and Bill 130, the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act, followed by reading of the budget at 4 pm.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): It being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock Monday next.

The House adjourned at 1801.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OSJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vive-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative, vice-président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative,
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et projets de loi privés
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philp, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative,
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et projets de loi privés
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Présidente du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
			Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation, Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement. Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législativ
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	

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St. George-St. David Sarnia	Scott, Ian G. Huget, Bob	L ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Phillips, Gerry Owens, Stephen	L ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est Scarborough-Ellesmere Scarborough North/-Nord Scarborough West/-Ouest Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Frankford, Robert Warner, Hon/L'hon David Curling, Alvin Swarbrick, Anne Wessenger, Paul	ND ND L ND ND	Speaker/Président opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est Simcoe West/-Ouest Sudbury	McLean, Allan K. Wilson, Jim Murdock, Sharon	PC PC ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
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Wellington Wentworth East/-Est	Arnott, Ted Morrow, Mark	PC ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman, Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord Willowdale Wilson Heights Windsor-Riverside	Abel, Donald Harnick, Charles Kwinter, Monte Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND PC L ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre York East/-Est	Sorbara, Gregory S. Malkowski, Gary	L ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills York North/-Nord	Turnbull, David Beer, Charles	PC L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Présidente du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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CONTENTS

Thursday 23 April 1992

Private members' public business			
Cross-border shopping, resolution 6 . . .	305	Retail store hours	325
Mr Martin	305	Mr Carr	
Mr Curling	306	Mr Laughren	
Mr Sterling	306	Revenue from gaming	325
Ms Harrington	307	Mr Tilson	
Mrs Caplan	308	Ms Churley	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	309	Mr Bradley	
Mr Huget	310	Teachers' dispute	327
Mrs O'Neill	311	Mr Sterling	
Mr Martin	311	Mr Silipo	
Agreed to	319	Property assessment	327
Budget considerations, resolution 3 . . .	312	Mr Perruzza	
Mr Phillips	312	Ms Wark-Martyn	
Mr Sterling	313	Transfer payments	327
Mr Christopherson	314	Mr Phillips	
Mrs O'Neill	315	Mr Laughren	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	316	Forest management	328
Mr Drainville	317	Mr McLean	
Mrs Caplan	318	Mr Wildman	
Mr Phillips	319	Energy conservation	328
Agreed to	319	Mr Cooper	
		Ms Gigantes	
		Forest management	329
Members' statements		Mr Brown	
Child care	320	Mr Wildman	
Mr Beer		Transitional assistance funding	329
Forest management	320	Mrs Cunningham	
Mr McLean		Mr Silipo	
Consumer education awards	320	Flooding	330
Mr Jamison		Mr Drainville	
Health services	320	Mr Wildman	
Mr McClelland		Cross-border shopping	330
Public transportation	321	Mrs Caplan	
Mr Turnbull		Ms Wark-Martyn	
Township of Zorra	321	Mrs Caplan	
Mr Sutherland		Assistance to farmers	331
Skills training	321	Mr Villeneuve	
Mrs O'Neill		Mr Buchanan	
Municipal boundaries	321		
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)		Petitions	
Sexual assault	322	Revenue from gaming	331
Mr Huget		Mr Offer	
		Tobacco taxes	331
Oral questions		Mr Villeneuve	
Revenue from gaming	323	Niagara Detention Centre	331
Mr Conway		Mr Cooper	
Ms Churley		Rent regulation	331
Mr Cordiano		Mr Mahoney	
		Labour legislation	332
		Mrs Witmer	
		Access to permanent housing	332
		Mr Wiseman	
		Control of smoking	332
		Mr Sola	
		Revenue from gaming	332
		Mr Hayes	
		Rent regulation	332
		Mr Brown	
		First readings	
		School Boards and Teachers Collective	
		Negotiations Amendment Act, 1992,	
		Bill 4	332
		Mr McGuinty	
		Agreed to	332
		Faithway Baptist College of Canada	
		Act, 1992, Bill Pr1	333
		Mr O'Connor	
		Agreed to	333
		Third readings	
		Waste Management Act, 1992, Bill 143 .	333
		Mr O'Connor	333
		Mr Offer	334
		Mrs Grier	335
		Mr Cousens	336
		Mr Bisson	342
		Mr McGuinty	344
		Mr Stockwell	346
		Mr Wiseman	347
		Mr Sorbara	349
		Mr Tilson	350
		Ms Haack	351
		Mr Beer	351
		Mr Mahoney	352
		Mr McClelland	353
		Mrs Caplan	354
		Agreed to	355
		Business of the House	355
		Mrs Coppen	

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

Le jeudi 23 avril 1992

Pétitions

Contrôle du tabagisme	332
M. Sola	

Première lecture

Loi de 1992 modifiant la Loi sur la	
négotiation collective entre conseils	
scolaires et enseignants, projet de loi 14 .	332



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 27 April 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 27 avril 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 27 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

COLLÈGES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): Plus de 350 étudiants, éducateurs et politiciens se sont rencontrés à North Bay les 28 et 29 mars pour promouvoir la création d'un collège de langue française dans le nord de l'Ontario. Malheureusement, le gouvernement néo-démocrate n'a pas profité de cette occasion pour annoncer d'importants progrès dans ce dossier.

Encore tout dernièrement, on a pu lire dans la presse que le premier ministre a renouvelé son appui de la promotion de la langue française et au développement culturel des francophones hors Québec. Alors, la communauté francophone de l'Ontario s'attend à ce que le gouvernement tient promesse concernant la création d'un collège francophone dans le nord.

Si le gouvernement néo-démocrate n'est pas prêt à préciser son engagement envers le collège du nord, il doit au moins respecter l'accord de 1989 entre le gouvernement fédéral et notre province. Cet accord prévoyait des dépenses de 2,3 millions de dollars pour l'éducation en français dans les collèges du nord en 1991 et 4,3 millions de dollars en 1992.

Je demande que le gouvernement rende justice aux francophones du nord et verse sans délai les sommes à leur éducation postsecondaire qu'on leur avait promis dans l'accord de 1989.

DONALD BUTT

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr Donald Butt, who practises family medicine in my constituency, has been recognized as the 1992 Family Physician of the Year by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Dr Butt celebrates his silver anniversary in practice this year, having served Mississauga families for 25 years. In fact, there are some families with four generations under his care. He works six days and two nights per week in his Clarkson office, makes house calls and tends to patients in nursing homes.

Dr Butt also has a long history of service at the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, where he has been an active staff member for 25 years and rose to become the chief of medical staff in 1979.

An associate professor of family and community medicine at the University of Toronto, Dr Butt is a preceptor for family medicine residents. He is past president of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, for which he presently chairs the committee of annual scientific assemblies.

His talents are not limited to medicine, however; Dr Butt is also an accomplished symphony flautist and a former tenor with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

Dr Butt will be presented with his award during the Worldwide Conference on Family Medicine in Vancouver on May 10.

On behalf of my community, I am happy to extend to Dr Butt our appreciation for his outstanding service and our congratulations upon receiving this well-deserved recognition as Canada's Family Physician of the Year.

SCIENCE FAIR

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): I want to tell you the story of Elaine Gladu from St David's school, 12 years old. She has done a science poster, as you can see, on the importance of science in our society. Sean Robillard, 13 years old, and Justine Mansourian, 12, also from St David's, are students of Olga Bradley.

Sudbury is very proud to be celebrating the Canada-wide Science Fair 1992. Four hundred and seventy-five students and 150 adults are participating. Taiwan, Sweden, Australia and Japan participating as well. There are several venues throughout my city and, as usual, Sudbury will show everyone a good time with our wonderful hospitality.

The other thing I would like to tell everyone is that this event has been going on for a number of years, and Sudbury has been lucky enough this year that all 10 provinces and the two territories are involved. It's an annual event where all of the students put their scientific minds to work and get things looking to the future.

Last, the corporate sponsors in our town have been wonderful with all the money they have provided. On behalf of Sudbury and the Canada-wide Science Fair, I would like to present you all with a pencil which will remind you to be there between May 10 and May 17.

1340

CHILD CARE

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): This morning the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario held a press conference here at Queen's Park. The association had some very important points as it presented the results of its recent public opinion survey, that "84% of Ontarians believe parents should be entitled to choose between the two types of child care settings for their children": independent and tax-supported.

I regret to report that the \$100 million directed towards the child care envelope in this province in 1992 does not help one more parent get back to work, does not create one more subsidized child care space, does not create one new job and in fact puts the jobs of the 6,500 women now employed in independent child care centres in jeopardy. Small business operators are in jeopardy, as are their staff. Parents in communities right across this province will have fewer and fewer choices. Thousands and thousands of children who meet all the qualifications for fee-assisted spaces will remain on the waiting lists.

Can Ontarians afford a tax expenditure of this magnitude, \$100 million, in 1992 with no results, no real returns?

YORK TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Today I am very pleased to share with members of our Legislature and with the province of Ontario another success story that is taking place in northeast Metro, in the south York region. For the 10th year, the York Technology Association, which has been in existence that long, will place before the public its own annual directory of services and membership so people can know what is being done and can be done within a community by the private sector.

The York Technology Association is one of the largest high-tech associations in the country, and through our activities we hope to involve all kinds of companies that are involved in high technology in helping one another by helping resolve issues that are of concern to the industry.

This publication was put together by our communications committee, which includes Gary Bryson of Sun Microsystems, Veronica Cluett, Dan Legault of A.V. International, Janice Murray of Burson Marsteller and Donald Pounsett of Fraser and Beatty.

The association is there to serve our industry, and it's really impressive when you start realizing what people can do for themselves. This is an example of that. I happen to be the honorary chairman of the association, and we happen to have two very strong chairmen. From what we have seen with Chris Stait-Gardner—and here I've forgotten the co-chairman—they are doing a job for our community.

I say we all have to work together to help industry to survive.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House today to congratulate the first class of graduates from the local employment assistance program. LEAP is sponsored by the YWCA, the Scarborough Board of Education and Employment and Immigration Canada. The program is specifically designed to address the educational and social needs of women who are over 40 and have been on social assistance for one year.

It is through innovative partnerships and programs such as this that people will be assisted in developing the independence necessary to control their personal and financial destiny. It is also an opportunity for these students to develop new relationships that will give peer support as each new milestone is reached over the coming years.

On March 13, 1992, I had the pleasure of watching the following women graduate from LEAP after attending the program for 28 weeks: Rosemary Arch, Etula Butler, Lucja Hoffman, Vidalyn James, Norma Kasparian, Lynn Keeley, Janice Kirk, Cheryl Machinter, Dulcie Morgan, Norma Salmon and Iona Samuels. I salute the courage, strength and dignity so demonstrated by these women in their desire to better themselves. It is with great pleasure that I introduce to the House the graduates and students of the LEAP program of Scarborough.

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr Charles Beer (York North): As members are aware, a tentative agreement was reached last Thursday evening by the Ottawa Board of Education and striking

school teachers. This agreement was ratified yesterday and will bring a five-week-long strike to an end. While we are all happy and relieved to see students return to the classroom, we are at the same time concerned about their ability to make up for 23 lost school days.

The Education Relations Commission had ruled that the students' school year was not in jeopardy. While that may be the case, we must also recognize that it is exceptionally difficult for borderline students to make up for five weeks of lost instruction. The minister owes it to all students and their parents to ensure that whatever additional academic support is required is in fact provided.

The second point that needs to be made is, what have we learned from the Ottawa experience? What does it tell us about how well the collective bargaining process is working? Are students' rights being adequately protected? Do the role of the Education Relations Commission and the whole question of jeopardy need to be reviewed? Does the government now not recognize the painful dilemma in which it has placed school boards by its 1% transfer payment? Would the minister now agree it's time to bring together school boards and teachers' federations to work out a fair solution to salary and benefit negotiations during these difficult economic times?

Surely what we have all learned from the recent Ottawa school board strike is that the process must be made to work better. What is important for the future is that the students have a chance to learn. Now, Minister, let's make sure the Carleton strike is quickly resolved.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I also would like to talk a little bit about the Ottawa Board of Education settlement. I'd like to say shame on the board of trustees at the Ottawa Board of Education, shame on the teachers for having excessive demands and shame on the NDP government for not showing any leadership in terms of holding restraint within the public sector referring to teachers.

Where on earth is there social justice in this province? Last fall the Minister of Community and Social Services announced an increase of some \$627 to a single mother and two children in this province. This excessive settlement which was given by the Ottawa Board of Education—they caved to the demands of the teachers—gave teachers an increase of some \$2,400 for this year, four times what a single mother trying to operate on \$17,000 a year is going to receive from the government, while the teachers are trying to operate on a salary of some \$60,000 a year. Where is the social justice? Is it any wonder that the people of Ontario have no faith in government and no faith in our institutions?

EXPO 98

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): It is with much regret that I bring to the attention of this Parliament and to our communities at large that Italy will be supporting Lisbon's bid for Expo 98 and not Metro Toronto's. I would also like to bring to the attention of the House that from 1988 to the year 2000, Europe has and will continue to host all significant world fairs while North America, and Canada in particular, will have none.

As you are already aware, Canada is home to one of the largest Italian communities outside of Italy; over 300,000 Italians reside in Metro Toronto alone. Metro is within one day's drive of more than 130 million people. With that in mind, let me also point out that Metro Toronto does have the infrastructure in place to be able to deliver a very successful event like Expo 98.

In addition, an event of this magnitude would bring the province hundreds of millions of dollars in direct investment and would create many needed jobs. I'm in the process of writing to officials of the Italian government to lobby the members of Parliament to support Metro Toronto's bid. I call on my colleagues in government to do the same.

[Remarks in Italian]

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Before continuing with proceedings, I would invite all members to welcome a special guest to our assembly this afternoon. Seated in the Speaker's gallery is Mr Indulis Berzins, a member of Parliament, leader of the Popular Front Faction and the chair of the foreign relations committee, from the Parliament of Latvia. Welcome.

1350

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

BREWING INDUSTRY

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I would like to inform the House of the outcome of Canada's negotiations with the United States on the GATT panel report on provincial beer policies.

On Saturday, April 25, 1992, Canada and the United States reached an agreement in principle on how Canada will implement the panel's report. This agreement will allow the two countries to pursue talks within a set of agreed principles. There will be further consultation about the technical details of implementation over the next few weeks and months.

I am very pleased we have been able to resolve this issue quickly and to the benefit of both countries. It has been a very difficult process for all and both sides have made concessions to arrive at a mutually acceptable understanding. I am very glad that the situation did not, in the end, result in retaliation and counterretaliation.

Ontario, with the invaluable support and cooperation of industry and labour, has worked closely with the federal government during the course of negotiations with the US. Ontario's efforts were instrumental in helping the federal government achieve a satisfactory agreement. The US has accepted the continuation of minimum pricing and the other policy changes Ontario is planning to make. It has also agreed to a transition period of 18 months for the Canadian beer industry to adjust to more open competition in the global market. The brewing industry has accepted the transition period in the interests of reaching a settlement.

This summer, Ontario and the other provinces will be dismantling their interprovincial barriers to trade in beer.

During the transition period, we will be introducing the legislative and administrative changes required to bring Ontario policies into conformity with the GATT panel report. The panel report on Canada's complaint against US beer practices will be tabled on Thursday at the GATT council meeting in Geneva. I hope that the US will agree to the adoption of this report and will move equally quickly to implement it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved, specifically representatives of both the beer industry and brewery workers, for their dedicated hard work and constructive advice. This has been a positive example of successful partnership between government, industry and labour in Ontario.

RESPONSES

BREWING INDUSTRY

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I'd like to respond to the statement by the minister. You can perhaps excuse our chagrin and our astonishment that this government has managed to negotiate a free trade agreement with the United States. Having heard many of the comments from the heckling Premier in the past, perhaps the Premier should have read the statement. Perhaps it's the Premier who actually negotiated this free trade agreement with the United States.

The minister says she wishes to thank all the parties involved, and she says the beer industry. I understand that. I've requested information about meetings between Labatt's and this government in Orders and Notices and I've been told that it's too costly to provide me with that information. I wonder when this government decided to abandon the workers in the beer industry. I wonder when this government decided—

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Saved thousands of jobs.

Mr Mahoney: Are there not going to be job layoffs, Mr Premier, who seems to be in a rather antsy mood today? I can understand that, considering that he is one of the proponents of the first free trade agreement since he's been elected to office. I can understand why he would be somewhat excited and nervous about this agreement. I'm not even sure he understands it.

This government has agreed to a transition period being changed from 36 months to 18 months. What a transition period is for in this issue is to allow for complete restructuring of the industries so that the workers who are going to be laid off as a result of this government and this policy have an opportunity to find additional work and alternative means of employment.

The Premier doesn't seem to be concerned about that any more. We now have the new free trade socialist government in office, which was prepared to abrogate every other attempt at free trade in dealing in the global market but which now, curiously, seems to be leading the way.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Unaccustomed as I am to speaking on these matters, I would like to say a couple of things about what we have seen coming out of the legislative maze at the Ministry of Consumer and

Commercial Relations. There has been a real change in the way this government is now doing business. These people used to make some interesting speeches about what they would do when it came to cooperating with what is really in essence, as my colleague said, a free trade arrangement with the United States. They used to have interesting things to say about gambling, casino gambling in particular. They used to have interesting things to say about a whole lot of things, but what has gone unsaid is much more remarkable.

Where is the consumer protection legislation that had been talked about by my colleague the member for York Centre for some substantial period of time? Where is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations when it comes to protecting consumers? Where is this minister when she is talking about protecting the consumer dollar from the ravages of a Treasurer so hungry that he virtually leaps at any penny he sees falling to the streets in Ontario? Where is this minister as she is supposed to guard against the full-scale retreat of protections for the consumers of this province? She is busy constituting panels to help her and then congratulating them for helping her do free trade arrangements between Canada and the United States.

Does anybody remember when the Premier used to talk in different terms about what he would do about free trade in Ontario? Do we remember what this man used to say about casinos in Ontario? Do we remember what this man used to say about protecting consumers? When we talk about protecting consumers, I remember this man at the beginning of the 1990 election indicating he couldn't believe anybody in the Liberal administration because it had raised so many taxes.

It appears the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations forgot to tell us in this little statement of hers about beer that she had a lot of work to do to protect the consumers' disposable income from the Premier who loves to raise taxes, from the Treasurer who is loath to do anything else but raise taxes and spin these magic tales.

There should be a consumer protection bill from this minister to protect us from the information coming in the budget. The budget will be cast in terms that will mislead almost everybody about the real state of affairs in the treasury. It seems to me we will be hearing this minister protecting the consumers against the Treasurer's spins when he starts talking about only operating deficits. We should be reminded that there are both operating and capital budgets to be dealt with in this next budget. Where is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on those?

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I'd like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on the Canada-United States agreement on beer. What an utter waste of time to listen to a statement about an initiative that's been taken by the federal government for a problem that's been solved by the federal government. This government has had absolutely nothing to do with the resolution of this problem, and it has the gall to read the newspapers, indicating how this problem is being dealt with by the federal government. They feel they

can stand in this House and tell us how they're solving the problem.

In fact, when you look at the final statement the minister has made as to what she has done, it has nothing to do with Consumer and Commercial Relations; it has to do with labour. She says, "This has been a positive example of successful partnership between government, industry and labour." Labour, of all things; this is to be in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, not a matter involving labour. I would say it's political opportunism at its worst for the minister to stand up and make a non-statement, and I will say nothing further in response.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Maybe I'm missing a point here in this announcement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I thought she represented the consumer, the person who bought a beer at the local pub or bought a beer at Brewers' Retail. Her announcement today and her actions of yesterday or last week are about protecting the beer industry, which made substantial profits last year. They are about protecting brewery workers, but they have nothing to do with the poor worker who wants to go in and buy a beer, and I thought she represented the consumer. The sooner we can lower beer prices in this province and in this country, the better it will be for the consumer, and therefore that is where we stand.

1400

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I think it is a perfect opportunity to ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to review, come Thursday, the budget the Treasurer is going to bring down, for just these kinds of reasons. There is going to be a lot of spin-doctoring and interesting phraseology the Treasurer is going to use, and I think it is incumbent on this minister, in protecting the consumer and the taxpayer, to take the language the Treasurer uses and translate it so the average taxpayer will understand. The point that was made by the member for Bruce I think is very important. I think you as Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations should explain to the public when your Treasurer tries to tell them he is separating the capital debt from the operating debt and re-explain to them that debt is debt is debt, and quit trying to kid the troops.

VISITOR

The Speaker: Before continuing with our routine proceedings, I would invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon a long-standing former member of the House, and indeed the author of our daily prayer, the former member for Yorkview, Mr Fred Young, seated in the gallery.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): I have a question for the Premier. The Premier continues to exercise a personal judgement that denies people in communities like Windsor the right to open their stores on Sunday. The Premier has decided that Sunday shopping is wrong because it would be damaging to our sense of community

and family, even though the people of Windsor and other communities say they desperately need Sunday shopping to stave off their economic catastrophe.

It seems the Premier is prepared to respond to municipal calls for casinos, but he continues to ignore their calls for other alternatives, like Sunday shopping, to assist them. It is quite obvious the Premier believes there is something to fear from Sunday shopping but nothing to fear from casinos, and quite obviously the logic of this decision seems to escape more than just the members on this side of the House, so I would again ask the Premier why it is he responds so readily to the call for casinos but refuses to listen to the pleas for Sunday shopping.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think I would say that generally speaking we are listening to people, but with respect to the specific example she has raised, she'll realize that I am at something of a disadvantage, as is she, since as of this afternoon this matter of the proposed bylaw from Windsor is now before the Ontario Municipal Board. I am sure that given the comments that have been made by the former Attorney General and others, it would be inappropriate for me to say anything which could affect the outcome of that hearing.

Mrs McLeod: I was of course quite well aware of the presentation being made to the Ontario Municipal Board and it is very much the focus of our supplementary question, but before asking the supplementary question, I would like to present our understanding of why the government has responded in such a differential way to the calls from communities for a response to what they believe would help their situation, because it seems to us quite evident that the decision to consider introducing casino gambling was made with greater haste because of the government's desperation to get new sources of what it is now calling non-tax revenue. It is quite clear this government is prepared to listen and to respond to people in communities only when it serves its very most immediate purposes.

In light of the fact that some 70% of Ontarians have indicated they want Sunday shopping, will this government now stop imposing its judgements on municipalities and stop making necessary the resort to the Ontario Municipal Board to defend a decision made by a municipality? Will the Premier agree to introduce legislation allowing municipalities simply to decide for themselves whether or not they want Sunday shopping?

Hon Mr Rae: I know the urge to ask certain questions on certain days, but since she herself started her entire question focusing on the Windsor subject, all I can say to her is that the matter is now before the OMB.

Mrs McLeod: Obviously the thrust of the supplementary question was to propose that there are ways to respond to municipalities without putting them through the process of having to respond on an appeal to the OMB. It might also tie into some of the government's other stated initiatives, like streamlining the processes at the Ontario Municipal Board. But perhaps I can take the Premier to another

aspect of the question, since he's not going to deal with this particular one on this particular day.

I suggest that most people understand the economic benefits that would come from Sunday shopping, in terms of its impact both on cross-border shopping and also on the maintenance of retail sales in the province. It seems that the main difference between casinos and Sunday shopping is that with Sunday shopping the government can't quite readily identify its own take as easily as it could with casino revenues. That's the difference and that's why this decision is being considered.

We wonder whether the government has really analysed what its take is going to be and what the actual benefits to the province will be. Last week the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations was asked about impact studies on horse racing and charitable organizations. In response she indicated that she was certainly going to talk to those people. There is a considerable difference between talking to people and carrying out detailed impact studies. I ask the Premier whether his government in fact has carried out impact studies on the possible costs and benefits of casino gambling, and if so, will he share the results of those impact studies with the Ontario public?

Hon Mr Rae: I can assure the honourable member that when a decision is made with respect to the question of gaming generally, obviously the impacts that various proposals may or may not have with respect to other elements of the gaming industry are among the factors that will be considered.

Mrs McLeod: I am truly surprised that a Premier and a government that talk about openness and consultation would not want to have any information the government is using as a basis for making its decision shared with the public before the decision is in fact made, so there could be greater understanding and acceptance of the ultimate decision. But that is not the subject of my second question, which I will also direct to the Premier.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): With this question I want to raise matters of statements that have been made recently by the Minister of Education that are causing considerable concern and confusion across the province. On a Focus Ontario program a little better than a week ago, the minister suggested that the boards would have to stop behaving and spending as they have been. When pressed the minister went on to acknowledge that of course he had always felt the boards were underfunded, yet in the absence of the necessary funding he would not approve of boards that were cutting either staff or programs. Anyone listening to that discussion would have understood that there was clearly only one other resource for school boards, and that was salary contracts, yet the minister has been very unclear as to what his government's role will be in direct intervention in salary negotiating processes.

Last Wednesday the Minister of Education made his announcement about transition funds and indicated that transition dollars would support the "establishment of balanced and affordable contracts" that are to be achieved

through "lower wage settlements in return for enhanced employment security and other negotiated benefits." Does the Premier understand what his minister meant by the term "balanced and affordable agreements"? Can he tell us how his government is going to decide which boards will be rewarded for following the government's bargaining strategy? Does the Premier himself not consider this to be direct intervention in the collective bargaining process?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Given his depth of knowledge in these areas, I think I'll refer the question to the Minister of Education.

1410

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): The answers to the two parts of the question from the Leader of the Opposition are as follows: With respect to what we mean by effective agreements, we mean collective or other agreements that can be reached between school boards and their employee groups which balance what I think all in this House understand to be more reasonable wage packages with a number of other benefits and protections that are important to employees. That's the kind of thing we want to encourage and I think all members in this House would agree with that.

In terms of the process, we have been meeting and will continue to meet with representatives from the school boards, the teachers' federation and the support staff unions to come up with a system for requests and approval of the transition funds, because we also believe that's the best way to deal with that issue in terms of having them involved with us in setting up a process we think makes sense to everyone as far as the distribution of those funds is concerned.

Mrs McLeod: I am not at all surprised that the Premier would have referred this question rather than accept any responsibility for statements the Minister of Education has been making. It seems quite amazing to me that the responses we're hearing from the Minister of Education would be made by somebody who has the knowledge of a former chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto School Board, who fully realizes how completely unworkable, at least based on any information we've been given, these transition fund guidelines are going to be.

It would seem to us that the transfer payments to school boards, when they were announced, essentially left the school boards with de facto wage controls, although the Minister of Education will use every possible kind of wording to refuse to acknowledge that fact. Again, I recognize that in the statement made by the minister last Wednesday, he said he wanted boards to offer enhanced employment security as a tradeoff for lower wages. Surely the minister and even the Premier realize this is direct intervention in the collective bargaining process without any clear guidelines for that intervention.

I would ask the minister, can he be very specific today about the kind of tradeoffs he expects boards to make with teachers and how those tradeoffs are going to be managed through a selective application of his transition funds?

Hon Mr Silipo: I have to say I'm a little bit puzzled by the question, because again we seem to be getting this "we want to have it both ways" approach, with all due respect. We are being accused now of interfering in the collective bargaining process when some time last week or the week before we were getting calls from both opposition parties to bring in wage controls and to legislate solutions.

What we are doing is recognizing there is a collective bargaining responsibility and relationship at the local level between school boards and their employee groups. What we have done is to set out some criteria which we believe will help in that process and fulfil our responsibility at the ministry level and as a government to oversee the functioning of our school system. It's exactly because I know what it's like to be a school trustee, to be at the local level, responsible for dealing with these kinds of issues, that I believe this responsibility needs to be supported. We need to do that in the way we have been doing, by working with school boards.

We have examples of these kinds of things beginning to happen even on their own. I'm sure the Leader of the Opposition would know very well the situation in the Lambton County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, where the teachers at both levels have come together with the board of their own accord and repackaged an agreement they had into something that is more sensible for them, and we think for everyone.

Mrs McLeod: We know well what is being achieved with voluntary, cooperative efforts at a local level. It's the minister's own announcement of his intent to intervene directly in school board contracts that we're questioning today. This isn't something mythical; this is something the minister announced in a written statement last week. We're simply asking him to tell us and to tell boards across this province what his government intends to do, what the strategy is. I don't believe he can answer the question because I don't believe the government has a strategy.

I think the government has created chaos from the time it went from an 8% transfer payment a year ago to a 1% transfer payment this year. I believe the government is now trying to redeem the situation by presenting something it terms to be guidelines, which is really direct intervention without any kind of plan at all. This threatens to leave the education system in as much chaos in the future as it is right now.

I simply ask the minister how he can possibly justify this kind of direct intervention without any clear guidelines as to what is expected, without any clear plan as to what his government intends to achieve. With all these tradeoffs, what kind of legacy is this minister leaving future school boards and future taxpayers in the province?

Hon Mr Silipo: As the Leader of the Opposition would fully understand, it isn't the place for ministerial statements to outline in detail all the guidelines we will be following. Those guidelines are there; they're being developed. We have another meeting set up for next week to conclude them with the stakeholders I mentioned and for us to talk with them about the specific process of approving these funds, because we believe that's the way in

which this should be done, not simply by the minister, without that kind of discussion with people at the local level.

The guidelines are there and the objective is as set out in my statement, which is to encourage the kind of collaborative approach at the local level between school boards and their employee groups that I think will assist us in getting to a point where we have—the question of salaries has been addressed, as well as the question of other benefits, whether it's protecting jobs, which we know in the school board sector, on the teacher level particularly, means the protection of programs, like French immersion programs, like junior kindergarten, like English-as-a-second-language programs, and that's exactly the kind of direction we believe we need to pursue in order to make sure that protection occurs.

LOAN GUARANTEES

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. This Thursday, Premier, we'll find out just how deep a hole the Treasurer has dug for Ontario taxpayers. Given Ontario's current financial woes, would the Premier tell us why you are even considering offering loan guarantees to Olympia and York? Does the Premier not realize that by letting it be known that you are considering offering loan guarantees, both you, the Ontario government, and the federal government have sent a signal to the banks that virtually guarantees they'll offer no form of bailout package or no form of restructuring without the taxpayers being on the hook federally and provincially? Do you not realize you have done that, and why are you doing it in the first place?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I appreciate the question from the leader of the third party, who's looking particularly well today, and say to him that there have been no guarantees given to the financial institutions or to the company in question and that he would be among the first, I think, who would think it among the responsibilities of this government to be working with the federal government to monitor the difficult situation which we know O and Y has been in for some time. But beyond that monitoring, no decisions have been taken by this government.

Mr Harris: I realize no decisions have been taken. My question didn't deal with the decision; my question deals with why you have served notice that you are prepared to consider. Why have you done that? The taxpayers of Ontario, I suggest to you, Mr Premier, cannot afford to bail out Canary Wharf. Let's let John Major guarantee their loans and look after their problems with the Canary Wharf project in England.

Premier, you will likely kill more jobs in your own budget on Thursday than Olympia and York will save with your loan guarantees. Given all of that, will you today send a clear message to the bankers, who have advanced the money to Olympia and York and are now looking for the taxpayers to get them off the hook? Will you send that clear message to the bankers and Olympia and York and all the negotiators who are there that they will not get one

cent of loan guarantee from the beleaguered Ontario taxpayers?

Hon Mr Rae: The only thing this government has been doing, which I think any government in this situation would be expected to do, has been to monitor, through its officials, with federal officials, with people from the Bank of Canada and from elsewhere, with respect to the situation the company finds itself in, and that is the extent of whatever has been put forward by the government of Ontario. We have obviously been listening and learning about the situation from the people involved, as well as from others in the private sector and in the public sector, and that's the responsible thing for us to do. Beyond that, no decisions have been taken.

1420

Mr Harris: This document contains the names of 1,500 companies that have gone bankrupt since your government took office, Mr Premier. Thousands—hundreds of thousands, many will say—are out of work in this province as a result of this. Belleville Furniture and Appliances, Frank Furlong Auto Repair, Hart Marine Ltd—I suggest to you, Premier, that your attention should be on these economic problems. What forced these businesses to go under? You say in response that you have done nothing but monitor. Will you then assure this House, and therefore send a clear signal out to the taxpayers of this province and the negotiators for the banks, that the Ontario government will not be receptive to any advance to guarantee any of the Olympia and York loans?

Hon Mr Rae: The Ontario Development Corp, as the leader of the third party knows perfectly well, has been involved for many years under all three governments in responding to different situations across the province with regard to companies. To suggest, for example, that we have been unreceptive to the difficulties facing a number of companies across the province would be quite unfair, or that we are favouring one company or one group of companies over another would be an accusation without any foundation.

All I can tell the honourable member, as clearly as I possibly can, is that if we were not monitoring the situation and looking at it together with the federal government in terms of what is taking place, the leader of the third party would be the very first person on his feet saying that's what we should be doing. Beyond that we have made no commitments.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question.

Mr Harris: It is totally incorrect for you to suggest what I would be doing. I am clearly telling you, Premier, that what you are doing is telling the banks they would be foolish not to ask for the loan guarantees, and you know that's what will happen—

The Speaker: Is this the member's second question?

Mr Harris: —and second, to every other business, "If you've got a problem, come to the Ontario taxpayer"—

The Speaker: Order. Does the leader of the third party have a second question, and to whom does he wish to address his question?

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question as well is to the Premier. Earlier this year our caucus asked, through a survey, 50,000 businesses in Ontario what they thought about your proposed labour legislation. The response to the survey was overwhelming, some 10 times the statistical average for response to surveys of this type; the response rate was some 10 times greater. Forty-eight per cent of the responses said that they will cut back on staff if you proceed with your plans and the direction you are going in.

Premier, knowing that you will kill jobs in this province if you proceed unilaterally, will you immediately place a moratorium on your labour legislation changes as they are proposed to go forward by the Minister of Labour before we lose one more job in this province?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier): First of all, we've had a consultation. We've now had an opportunity to hear from a lot of people. Cabinet will obviously be considering any proposals coming forward from the Ministry of Labour with respect to the legislation, the House will have an opportunity to debate the legislation and committees will then have a chance to consider it. This will be the year in which this discussion will take place.

That's the way this government intends to proceed. I also say there are some very clear examples I can offer the member quite to the contrary. I doubt very much whether the Ford Motor Co would have invested \$1 billion in Oakville and \$1 billion in Windsor if the Ford Motor Co felt the general approach taken by this government would be one that would be antithetical to or hostile to that company's plans to invest. We welcome investment in this province, we welcome positive labour relations between employers and employees, and we welcome the investment we have seen coming so far to the province.

Mr Harris: I think the president of Ford Motor Co is very clear and explicitly on the record as to what he thinks of how you are proceeding with the labour legislation changes. He has indicated that it is over great objections, but that in spite of that, some other factors, none of which have to do with that or your government, are enabling him to proceed with the plans they had already made several years ago to invest in Ontario.

Fifty-four per cent of the businesses we surveyed said they would consider leaving Ontario if you proceed unilaterally. This will cost thousands of jobs. Premier, are new and expanded powers for union bosses more important than workers' jobs in this province? That is what it boils down to.

Hon Mr Rae: The idea that trying to ensure workers have a right to organize, that the right is made real, that we reduce the amount of counterproductive and lengthy delays in dealing with certification applications—to characterize that as giving more power to union bosses is rhetoric worthy of the 1920s or 1930s and has nothing to do with a modern industrial province.

Mr Harris: I read in the clippings this morning, Mr Premier, that you supported the comments made by Mr John Tory in a recent speech. I would like to quote from

Mr Tory's speech: "In the case of the government, their timing is appalling; their attitude is suspect. Just as we need confidence and stability, just as we are faced with global economic restructuring, the NDP decides to conduct a one-sided revolutionization of our labour laws."

Mr Premier, business has offered to sit down at the table with you. I have asked you repeatedly to take them up on their offer for a tripartite committee of government, business and labour to set the agenda, to look at labour legislation changes as part of that agenda and to find solutions together. Given that jobs must come first in this province, will you today finally sit down at the table, as Michael Harcourt is in British Columbia, with business, labour and government to deal with the future changes to the labour legislation?

Hon Mr Rae: Mr Speaker, I can tell the honourable member that's exactly what we have been doing and that's exactly what we will do.

MINING INDUSTRY

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): My question is about jobs as well, and it is to the Premier. Last Friday, Placer Dome announced the layoff of 99 workers at its Campbell gold mine in Balmertown, a community of some 1,569 people. Here are some of the facts that brought about this decision: Hydro cost increases are escalating—12.9% last year and they are facing 8.9% increases this year; as well, they face a 49% tax burden on their operating earnings; Workers' Compensation Board costs are rising through the roof and much uncertainty on where they are going to end up has been placed. We don't know where they are heading.

During the past year Placer Dome has reinvested in high-technology improvements and new production equipment to enhance its environmental and economic performance and has done well in this area. In spite of this, the company still had to lay off 99 of its workers.

Mr Premier, this is one of the stars in the mining industry in Ontario and yet this government is forcing it to lay off people. What is your government doing to ensure that companies like Placer Dome will not be forced to make similar layoff decisions?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I will refer that to the Minister of Mines.

1430

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): It was with some dismay that I was advised by Tim Mann, the general manager at this particular mine, that in fact they would be laying off 99 people effective on Friday. I can tell the House that, in correspondence sent to me by the mine manager, he indicated very clearly that the two reasons for the layoffs were, one, the very low price of gold which the company is experiencing and having difficulty responding to, and two, a review that was done by a management consultant one year ago to try and look at the overall operations in order to determine where further cost-cutting measures could take effect. Indeed, the consultant study unfortunately did show that cuts

in costs could come. This happened at the managerial level, hence the layoffs that occurred.

The member raises a very good point: What are we trying to do with other mine operations in order to deal with the very serious problems they are having? While there is not much we can do with respect to international prices either of gold or other metals, there is certainly a great deal we can do with respect to dealing with environmental regulation and with incentives. In both those cases, the Minister of the Environment and the Treasurer have asked me to deal with mining companies in particular to see where we can move in those two important areas.

Mr Miclash: Madam Minister, I'm talking about jobs. We know these 99 jobs are gone. Some four hours down the road from Red Lake we have a development ready to go. Madam Minister, you'll be aware of the Consolidated Professor Mines development that is ready to come on track. We know this will create 175 permanent new jobs. We know it will pump \$53 million into the local economy during the mine's pre-production period. As well, we're looking at another \$14.3 million into the local economy on an annual basis.

Madam Minister, you'll be aware as well that a redesignation under the Environmental Protection Act and the Ontario Water Resources Act has been requested by this company. In light of the announcement made by your government—and you referred to the Minister of the Environment earlier—to streamline that process, what are you doing to help Consolidated Professor Mines, and more important, the mining industry across the province to get back on their feet?

I've just cited an example of 99 miners in Balmertown gone—no jobs left for those 99. What are you doing in terms of helping other mining industries to stay in this province?

Hon Miss Martel: The member should know that I did indeed have an opportunity to meet with Mr Cunningham-Dunlop of Consolidated Professor at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention. I was also very pleased to meet with representatives of one of the band, who are very interested in having the project proceed because they know full well that a number of native members of their communities will receive employment from that.

I can tell the member that discussions are under way among several ministries, and at the federal level and with the province of Manitoba with respect to the Shoal Lake project. He will know this was designated under his government. There has been a request for that project to be de-designated and we are looking at what the implications of that might be.

I cannot make any commitment to the member at this time as to what will happen in that regard, but I can tell him that a number of ministries are involved at the present time in seriously looking at that request to determine what we can do.

ROAD MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Public opinion research conducted for the Better Roads Coalition reveals that 82% of Ontarians want the provincial tax money collected through gasoline, tire and other road taxes to be invested in road maintenance and construction.

You're already spending approximately \$1 billion less than you raised from these transportation user fees, yet this year the reduction in transfer payments to the municipalities is forcing cuts in road maintenance and the cancellation of new projects. Presently your government is following the Liberal example of allowing our infrastructure to crumble while spending money on such items as propaganda phone lines and buying out private day care centres. Can you explain why this \$1 billion is being allowed to be frittered away when the condition of roads is so desperate?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): In terms of the money being spent and the achievements of the Ministry of Transportation, this fiscal year indeed represents the highest it's ever been. The total amount is \$2.8 billion. Transfer payments, money that's flowing from the province to municipalities to fix bridges, to address the road system, has gone up 1% from \$727 million to \$735 million. At the Ministry of Transportation these are difficult but far from impossible times. We're capital-inclined.

I recall so vividly when these people formed a government. During good years they spent money like drunken sailors, except that at least drunken sailors spend their own money. Not only are we doing the best we can; this is an open-minded administration and we are seeking new ways, putting literally our best foot forward so that the investments of yesteryears will be improved both in terms of transit systems and in terms of transportation.

Mr Turnbull: This minister displays his lack of understanding of his own ministry. He's just suggested that he is spending more this year on roads than the total ministry budget, not counting transportation transfers. At the Ontario Road Builders' Association you mentioned that you were considering toll booths on Ontario highways as a source of revenue. Minister, all of these new taxes are just going to disappear in the general revenue unless you put something in place to guarantee that doesn't happen. The figures you just quoted are incorrect. You are not spending \$2.8 billion on roads. You're just plain wrong. Tell me: If you're going to introduce toll booths, are you going to guarantee that money goes into road building and not your stupid propaganda projects?

Hon Mr Pouliot: The same polls will also indicate that the people in Ontario—the motorists, the 6.3 million people who have a valid driver's licence—in their position are way ahead of the third party because 64% of the people are saying go and find an imaginative way to meet the cost, for instance, of Highway 407. It's \$20 million a mile.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Would the member take his seat.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Later today I will be presenting a petition on behalf of the York-Finch Hospital Foundation.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Mammoliti: This is a very important issue. I hope they don't decide to shout me down again. Later today I will be presenting a petition on behalf of the York-Finch Hospital Foundation. Nine thousand people have signed it, supporting the hospital's request for urgently required funding. My question then is to the Minister of Health.

Honourable Minister, my community has requested that I bring their concerns directly to your attention. York-Finch General Hospital opened in 1970, and even though Yorkview has grown fantastically and is still growing, the hospital has not kept up. Today our hospital not only services the Yorkview area but outlying areas as well, including Woodbridge and Etobicoke. We urgently need funds to expand our current hospital services. Our planned expansion fulfils your ministry's guideline for providing more outpatient and ambulatory care services for communities without increasing hospital operating costs. Madam Minister, could you please inform me of the status of York-Finch General Hospital and its request for funding?

1440

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I appreciate the question from the member for Yorkview and also receiving a copy of the press release from his press conference that he held today jointly with the CEO of York-Finch hospital. I appreciate his expression of the level of community support. He asked for an update on the status of this project. The project was originally supported by the district health council back in about 1986. In 1987 they started doing some planning work but the project's never been given ministry approval and they have been awaiting that status and a response to that.

Right now, the member will know that as of January 21 we announced that we are conducting a major review of outstanding capital commitments. Those commitments are for projects that have been approved that are not currently in the ground but have already been started. A number of them have tenders already out. We are currently trying to get those cleared up and get responses to those hospitals and those communities as soon as possible because we recognize, yet again, holding them up is a real problem.

Until we do that, until we get those projects in line with the new guidelines and the hospital funding program, as well as the strategic directions of the ministry, we won't be able to get an answer to some of those hospitals that haven't got approved projects. I appreciate the member's concern and we will try to get him an answer when that's possible.

Mr Mammoliti: I look forward to hearing from the ministry.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): My question is to the Minister of Government Services. In January, the Premier spent \$62,000 of taxpayers' money telling Ontarians that

times are tough and that we have to tighten our belts. Talk is about the only thing that's cheap with this government. The latest example of wasteful spending is the move of the Cabinet Office to the fourth floor of the Whitney Block at a cost of \$2.5 million. This minister moved his colleagues from perfectly good offices here in the Legislature to new quarters in the Whitney building. I just want to point out to the minister that \$2.5 million could support 100 families annually at \$25,000 per year.

I would ask how the Minister of Government Services can approve spending money so frivolously in these difficult economic times?

Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services): The member for Oriole is quite correct and the Cabinet Office has been consolidated in the Whitney Block from four former locations. The total cost for that move was \$1 million—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Minister.

Hon Mr Wilson: As I was saying, the Cabinet Office was consolidated in the Whitney Block from four former locations, one of which was in the Legislative Building, two in the Whitney and one in the Mowat Block. This consolidation was done in response to the recommendations of an all-party committee on the parliamentary precinct and is part of the overall plan for the restoration of the Legislative Building. The approximate cost for that was only \$1,940,000—far under budget. The quality of the operations and new furniture are comparable to the standard for government or private use; 60% of the existing furniture and equipment were reused.

Mrs Caplan: I think, on behalf of the taxpayers of Ontario, the Minister of Government Services should know that I believe, and I think the taxpayers believe, that in excess of \$1 million is a lot of money. He misses the point when he stands up and rhymes off an apologist's justification for what has been done.

What has been done is clearly wasteful and it is just part of a list of wasteful expenditures which include \$200,000 for putting police officers up in the Sutton Place Hotel for budget security measures; \$170,000 to publicize the throne speech, which was already published in full text in the paper and televised on the legislative channel; \$500,000 for a completely useless legislative inquiry, and a \$25-a-call NDP propaganda hotline.

This minister keeps justifying wasteful expenditures. I would ask him, why doesn't he change the name of his ministry to the Ministry of Government Waste?

Hon Mr Wilson: I imagine that last remark from the member for Oriole referred to my having the 3Rs program within my ministry.

Nevertheless, the consolidation of the cabinet office in the Whitney Block is part of the long-range plan, which I am sure the member is familiar with, of the refurbishing of the legislative precinct. It will in fact free up space within this very building in which we sit to allow us, for instance, to move members back into this building.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, the Treasurer is poised to make some pretty dramatic cuts in social services on Thursday. At least that's what we are being led to believe. Faced with that predicament, rather than possibly reducing the number of children who are impoverished and need meals in this province, rather than dealing with the 12,000 children on mental health waiting lists, rather than providing a safe environment by not cutting the budgets of children's aid societies, you and your government have decided to proceed with a rather expensive plan, worth about \$105 million, to wipe out private day care and the day care spaces it is providing to thousands of children in this province.

How can you justify this expensive ideological experiment that will be of no direct benefit to children in this province, especially to children in day care centres who will lose their spaces, women workers who will lose their jobs, women owners who will lose their businesses and their life investment and, last but not least, taxpayers who will lose value on their \$105 million instead of putting it into children's services?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): As I am sure the member is well aware, I will not comment on the first bunch of allegations he made about the budget. On Thursday you will hear about the budget and understand the commitment we have to those who are most in need in the province.

In terms of the issue around the support for private child care centres to convert to the non-profit sector, we believe these dollars are well spent on behalf of the children, their parents and indeed the staff. Of that \$105 million, \$30 million is specifically to pay support for the direct operating grants and the wage enhancement to people in those centres.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister take her seat, please. With the cooperation of the member for Etobicoke West, the member for Burlington South can ask his supplementary.

Mr Jackson: The truth of the matter is, Minister, that you have \$105 million of open-ended funding which, by your own testimony before a committee of this Legislature, you indicated was going to pay for non-profit centres that were closing. You were propping them up. A lot of that money is not going to conversion and saving spaces; it is to save a system that isn't working in this province fiscally. That's where you're putting your money, Minister, so don't try and suggest to this House that all that money is saving day care spaces. Thousands of spaces in for-profit and independent centres are closing.

I repeat my question: You have an opportunity now, faced with the difficult cuts you are going to have to make, with the news your Treasurer shares with you, you have the option of dropping this expensive ideological experiment and allowing those children's services to be retained in this province. A poll was announced today that showed that 80% of the citizens of this province support choice

and the most inexpensive way economically of delivering day care in this province. That's what 80% want.

On television in January, in an address on the economy, the Premier said, "I want your input." The province has spoken, and 80% of people want you to go back to the system of allowing this sector to survive. Will you respond and will you change this offensive ideological priority for spending when children's spaces are closing all across this province?

Hon Mrs Boyd: We are allowing private child care centres to stay open. Those that are now receiving grants will continue to receive grants and we continue to say that choice will be available to parents. We are saying that we will not put our scarce public dollars into profit centres when we need to strategically place those dollars to create a child care system in this province.

1450

DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): My question is for the Chairman of Management Board. Minister, on Friday you announced the relocation of government jobs from Toronto to communities across the province. In Kingston I announced on your behalf that the Ontario Heritage Foundation will be moving to Kingston with 60 jobs. However, the people of the Kingston area were expecting 230 government jobs. Can you explain why this change was made?

Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet): As the member knows, we went through a review of the relocation program and as a result of that managed to identify over \$300 million in savings as well as making what we think are a number of improvements to the original proposal.

With regard to Kingston particularly, we have I guess three points I could make to the member. First, we believe the move of the Ontario Heritage Foundation to Kingston is a better fit than elsewhere, and we think for that reason that's more sensible.

Second, we know there was some concern with respect to the number of jobs and will continue to work with the community in Kingston and within ministries about further possible relocations. Also, we've indicated that we are looking there at the possibility of alternative economic development funds we can make available to Kingston as the community is looking at what other industrial development activities it wants to undertake.

Third, we were able to confirm that a number of jobs from the Ministry of Transportation which were in some possibility of being moved out of Kingston will in fact be confirmed as remaining in Kingston. That's about 225 jobs. We think that with all of those things together, we have been fairly fair with the Kingston community.

Mr Gary Wilson: Minister, the chairperson of the Kingston Area Economic Development Commission is concerned that the Kingston announcement shows a lack of support for eastern Ontario, and we need that support. For example, on the very day I was announcing the move of 60 jobs to Kingston, Celanese Canada was announcing

that it was closing a production line at a cost of 160 jobs. What is the government doing to promote the economic development of eastern Ontario?

Hon Mr Silipo: I can certainly give at least two very specific examples. With respect to Renfrew, which was one of the other communities that was involved in the relocation program, we came up, as a result of discussions with people in the Renfrew community, with an alternative economic development fund of \$3 million from our end, which replaces the relocation move, which from their point of view makes a lot more sense as well in terms of the discussions we've had.

We anticipate that's one of the options that's available with respect to Kingston. We realize the discussions there have not gone as far as they have in the Renfrew community, but that's, as I've indicated, one of the options that's there and that will be discussed further, certainly with the member and with the mayor of the city and with other people in the community.

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): The Minister of Government Services last week admitted that the government is going to conduct more polls. The Minister of Transportation today quoted a poll saying 70% of the people were for something so the government was going to be doing it.

This question is for the Premier. At a time when his NDP government is closing hospital beds, is laying off nurses, is cutting educational programs, is shutting down kindergartens and is denying essential prescription drugs to elderly patients in Ontario, how can the Premier justify spending government funds, taxpayers' money, on more public opinion polls?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think the upcoming—

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): Speak right to the TV audience, Bob.

Hon Mr Rae: I appreciate the helpful suggestions being made by the member for St George-St David with regard to question period. His ongoing commentary is a source of education and amusement to all of us and it's a period we all look forward to.

My answer to the member would be to say that I think the estimates discussion and the budget discussion will give the member an opportunity to see the priorities of this government with respect to public services and with respect as well to information. I think it's important for us to always remember that our first obligation is to serve the public and make sure the public is getting the services that it needs, and as well from time to time to let people know what we're doing and from time to time to ask people, which I think all institutions do—in fact, the leader of the third party asked a question today based on a 50,000-firm survey that was presumably carried out by the Progressive Conservative Party. I would think—

Mr Bradley: That is party funds, not government funds.

Hon Mr Rae: I don't know whose funds they were, whether it was done by the caucus or whatever. These are things we all have to do from time to time.

Mr Bradley: In his earlier days in opposition, in his politically pure days, when he dismissed casino gambling and offtrack betting as politically evil, the Premier believed that government-commissioned polls paid for by taxpayers represented a cynical manipulation of the political process. Why, now that he is Premier, has he abandoned his principles of the past? Why does he not do what he vowed to do in opposition and cancel this costly, strictly political exercise?

Hon Mr Rae: I suspect for the same reason that, when the member was the Minister of the Environment for five long years and polls were conducted by his cabinet, he sat back and participated in that: for the simple reason that there is a normal process by which governments try to seek out and listen to people. There are a variety of ways of consulting with people, of which polling is simply one. The results are shared with the public and shared with members of the Legislature. That's the traditional practice in the Legislature.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Premier. Employees at the Cambridge Reporter recently attempted to get their union decertified. Thirty of 54 employees, the majority, have signed a petition requesting that the union be decertified. Apparently several union cards were obtained by the organizers at a union party where a number of people under the influence of too much beer and good cheer were given cards without paying the requisite \$1 fee.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board has turned down the petition because an application to terminate bargaining rights cannot be made until after the first collective agreement is settled. The first contract is currently pending before an arbitrator. The 30 employees, the majority, do not feel that their voices have been heard on the issue of certification. They are frustrated by a process that is not responsive to their wishes.

Would the Premier not agree that this case clearly demonstrates the need for a secret ballot vote for certification to protect the democratic rights of workers in this province and to ensure that all voices are heard?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think I'll have to take your question as notice.

Mrs Witmer: Mr Premier, you would agree that labour legislation must be responsive to the interests of all working people in the province. Your discussion paper gives unions additional rights but no accompanying responsibilities. There is absolutely no onus on a union to provide employees with copies of recent collective agreements, the union constitution, discipline procedures and information on the amount of dues payable in order that employees can truly make a well-informed choice.

Today you talked about providing workers with the right to organize. However, that right must be balanced.

They also need to have the right not to become unionized. The only way to ensure that the democratic rights of all employees are protected is to provide them with the ability to vote on the issue through secret ballot.

Premier, when you introduce your bill to amend the Labour Relations Act, will it contain the requirement for a secret ballot vote for certification, ratification of agreements and the decision to strike, as I put forward in my private member's Bill 152?

Hon Mr Rae: I can only say to the honourable member that I find that ironic coming from an élite member of the third party. After all, it was her party that was in power and passed legislation over many years providing for the pattern of certification that is in place today. Her complaint does not appear to be simply with the legislative proposals that have been made by this government; her complaint appears to be with the labour legislation that was passed by 42 years of Tory government in the province of Ontario.

1500

CHARITABLE GAMING

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. She should know that across this province volunteer organizations, be they groups like the Rose City Snow Seekers or the Welland Snowmobile Club, sports groups, hockey teams, bowling leagues, what have you, know they can't go with hand out to municipal governments, or indeed even to the provincial government, expecting grants and funding. What they are forced to rely on is that labour-intensive effort of fund-raising. They are ready to do it. They are eager to do it. They are eager to spend long, smoke-filled nights in bingo halls trying to raise money for their volunteer activities.

The problem is that they are experiencing a phenomenon where they are finding it more difficult rather than easier to engage in this fund-raising exercise. This is untenable and totally unacceptable. These people work too hard to provide too much to their communities to have stumbling blocks presented to them by the government.

My question is this: It is no secret that there is a gaming services act being resurrected and scheduled to be presented at some point. What is this minister going to do to make things easier for these small-town groups like the Rose City Snow Seekers, the Welland Snowmobile Club, minor hockey and baseball teams to make it easier rather than more difficult?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): It is always a pleasure to get a question from my colleague, formerly of my own ministry. Given the short time left today, I would just like to tell him that of course I am an advocate for the little guy and the little gal out there. I agree that there have been numerous roadblocks for people. I believe that is what he was talking about. There has been confusion for some time before last week about who has been eligible for charitable licences, as I said, starting with the Liberal government. We are in the process of reviewing some of that eligibility. We want to be fair, we want to obey the law, but I am certainly

aware of the problems the member is pointing out here today and am in the process of reviewing some of that and making sure their voices are heard in my ministry at last.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for a supplementary for the member?

The Speaker: While I appreciate the member's interest in both questions and responses, the question period is one hour in duration, and the time has expired.

Mr Stockwell: Unanimous consent.

The Speaker: With unanimous consent we can do just about anything. Do we have unanimous consent to continue question period?

Interjections: No.

The Speaker: No. I realize this disappoints the member, but we continue with the routine proceedings.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTION

Mr Cooke moved that the membership of the standing committee on regulations and private bills be amended by Mrs MacKinnon being substituted for Mr Fletcher.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved that Mr Turnbull exchange places with Mr Tilson and Mrs Witmer exchange places with Mr McLean in order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

PETITIONS

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have here a petition that has been put together by the Tebrik subcommittee of the St Paul's Home and School Association. Some 250 persons have signed the petition, which reads as follows. I note that this group of parents has done an incredible amount of work in putting this together, and I support it fully.

"We, the undersigned, find unacceptable the level of financing from the Ministry of Education towards (a) alleviating the overcrowding at St Paul's Catholic School, Newmarket, Ontario, and (b) meeting the needs of this growing community for further educational facilities.

"We support the board's bid to seek additional funds for Tebrik, phase 2, as proposed in the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board's capital expenditure forecast dated March 16, 1992. We most strongly recommend that the Ministry of Education approve financing of Tebrik, phase 2, in order to provide adequate and appropriate facilities to meet the educational and health and safety needs of the children of our community."

As I mentioned, I have appended my signature to this. It has been put forward by close to 250 people from Newmarket.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I'd like to present a petition on behalf of the constituents of Lanark-Renfrew to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

I have affixed my signature to that petition.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Incredibly, I have 9,000 signatures from my community. York-Finch General Hospital Foundation this morning gave me the petition. Frankly, I'd like not only to read it but tell you how important it is to me.

"Whereas the York-Finch General Hospital has been working with the Ministry of Health in developing an expansion program that will help in meeting the health care needs of the community it serves;

"Whereas the planning for this expansion has been ongoing for approximately eight years;

"Whereas the community has donated and pledged funds towards its share of the building costs for the proposed expansion;

"Whereas the population in Yorkview and Downsview ridings continued to increase dramatically;

"We, as community residents, request that the government of Ontario provide approval and funding for the York-Finch General Hospital expansion program so that this hospital may more appropriately accommodate the health care needs for its population."

I have certainly affixed my signature to the petition.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): I have been asked to present this petition by 68 people in my riding. I say I present it; I do not agree with what it has to say. It reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the duty of the free people to constantly guard and, if necessary, defend their freedoms, including linguistic freedom;

"Whereas the equality of all before the law is a fundamental principle of a democracy;

"Whereas the French Language Services Act creates a lawful but unjust special status for one linguistic group in Ontario and overrides the equality principle of a democracy;

"Whereas this act was passed by a minority of the members of this Legislative, as only 55 of the 125 elected members of this Legislative Assembly were present to vote;

"Whereas Ontario was founded and developed by the people of many cultures and many linguistic backgrounds in addition to English and French;

"Therefore, to return true democracy to Ontario, wherein all are equal before the law, and to promote harmony and goodwill among all the citizens, we ask this House to repeal the French Language Services Act, Bill 8, at the earliest possible moment."

As I said, I've been asked to present this and I've presented it, but I do not agree with the contents of it.

1510

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I wish to present a petition to the Legislature on the subject of the government considering legalizing casinos. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the current government is considering legalizing casinos in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in the racing industry; and

"Whereas studies show these proposals could affect some 50,000 jobs within the industry;

"The government stop looking to casinos as a quick-fix solution to pay down the deficit."

CENTRES D'ALPHABÉTISATION

M. Grandmaître (Ottawa-Est) : J'ai en main six pétitions. Par contre, je vais consolider les six en une.

En 1986, le gouvernement de l'Ontario met sur pied une politique d'alphabétisation pour l'Ontario. En 1990, Statistique Canada dévoile dans une étude que plus de 38 % de la population canadienne est analphabète.

En mars 1992, le gouvernement de l'Ontario annonce une coupure minimum de 22 % pour les centres d'alphabétisation. Ces coupures mettent en danger la survie et l'avenir des centres d'alphabétisation. Le gouvernement de l'Ontario doit accepter de prendre sa responsabilité et d'assurer un financement adéquat pour les centres d'alphabétisation.

Nous demandons au gouvernement de l'Ontario de maintenir au budget les montants affectés aux différents programmes d'alphabétisation.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition signed by 203 Ontario residents representing both management and employees of a number of Ontario companies, including Servocraft, Covertite Eastern, Bel-con Engineering, Dineen Construction, Twin Masonry and Zan Dall Construction, which reads:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I here affix my signature.

TAXATION

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by a number of people from the Ottawa-Carleton area. I have affixed my signature to it and agree with it:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

RENT REGULATION

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I present to the Legislature of Ontario a petition, which I have affixed my signature to, and it is signed by 30 residents of Ottawa-Carleton:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation bill, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation, the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are

balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a number of petitions here signed by tenants in three apartment buildings in North York—50, 60 and 70 Ruddington—as follows:

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation, the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

I have attached my signature.

GAME AND FISH BILL

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Bill 162 has been introduced to amend the provisions of the Game and Fish Act, RSO 1980, chapter 182; and

"Whereas the undersigned are opposed to the amendment of the Game and Fish Act pursuant to the provisions of Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"The undersigned respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to amend the Game and Fish Act, RSO 1980, chapter 182, by the enactment of Bill 162."

This is signed by over 300 citizens of the province, and I have affixed my signature.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LE CODE
DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

Mr Winninger moved first reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Human Rights Code / Loi modifiant le Code des droits de la personne.

Motion agreed to.

Mr David Winninger (London South): Very briefly, the proposed amendment to the Human Rights Code would extend protection against discrimination in employment against persons aged 65 and over.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACT, 1992

Mrs Witmer moved first reading of Bill Pr9, An Act to revive Cambridge District Association for Christian Education.

Motion agreed to.

1520

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLASS PROCEEDINGS ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LES RECOURS COLLECTIFS

Mr Hampton moved third reading of Bill 28, An Act respecting Class Proceedings / Loi concernant les recours collectifs.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Bill 28 is an Act respecting Class Proceedings.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): We are here to see if you get approved.

Hon Mr Hampton: We'll be relying on you, Ian, for your help on this.

Bill 28 received second reading on November 8, 1991, and by an order of the Legislature it has been continued as a bill of the second session. A number of steps must be taken before Bill 28 can be proclaimed. I should mention that there is a companion bill along with Bill 28. It is Bill 29, An Act to amend the Law Society Act to provide for Funding to Parties to Class Proceedings. The two bills come together.

As I mentioned, a number of steps must be taken before Bill 28 and Bill 29 can be proclaimed. The first step is to design the class proceedings fund. Part and parcel of this legislation is to establish a fund for the purposes of funding class proceedings.

Part of that step will be the need to establish an advisory committee to develop the structure, administration and procedures for the fund. Second, we need to select members for the advisory committee. We believe there should be representation from the Law Foundation of Ontario. We believe that actuarial expertise is required and would be helpful here. We want to ensure that we're able to determine how the fund can be made self-funding through the appropriate levies from damage awards and settlements. The advisory committee will have to resolve a number of issues relating to the fund before we're able to put it into place.

Second, we will need to work out the applications in other forms to provide for class proceedings and we will need to give considerable attention to the Quebec experience with its class actions assistance fund. As you know, Quebec has had class actions for some time and it has considerable experience with some of these things.

Next we'll have to deal with adapting the rules of court. Under Bill 28 the rules of court do apply to class proceedings. Consideration will need to be given to whether it is necessary to amend any of the rules to accommodate class proceedings or whether forms of notice for class proceedings should be added to the rules.

After that, and this is all part and parcel of the nuts and bolts which some members may want to discuss or allude

to here, we will have to of course consult with the Law Society of Upper Canada. Class proceedings raise certain ethical issues, such as the potential conflict of interest between the lawyer's duty to the representative plaintiff and to other members of the class.

Finally, one of the issues which will be germane here will be judicial education. Class proceedings will mean a major change for the judiciary. There may be concerns about the impact of this legislation upon the judiciary. The Advisory Committee on Class Action Reform, which did the general discussion of the issue, recommended that special efforts be made to educate the judiciary about the new procedures. We need to be prepared to assist the judiciary in any judicial education programs or other measures that the judiciary initiates for its members.

Part and parcel of what may be this third reading discussion will be the need for a communications public information package. Consumers and business organizations, though we have consulted with them widely on these reforms and the legislation, will need the benefit of a great deal of public information if we are to be able to utilize these new procedures in the optimum way.

Finally, the legislation entails a number of regulations, specifically regulations that will have to deal with the class proceedings fund, and there may be some discussion here about what ought to go in some of those regulations.

We need after that to establish the class proceedings committee. The committee will be responsible for the administration of the class proceedings fund. We believe five committee members must be appointed. There should be one by the Law Foundation of Ontario, one by the Attorney General and three jointly by the law foundation and the Attorney General. There will need to be consultations with the law foundation and, finally, if the committee is to work hand in glove with the legislation, training and orientation for the members of the committee, because they, after all, will be new to this as well.

These are all items that are yet to be done that flow out of the legislation. They will represent the culmination of all the hard work that has been done on this legislation, and I acknowledge here that much of that hard work was done by my predecessor, the member for St George-St David. I understand he may want to speak to some of this today, so I will make no further remarks at this time and leave this perhaps to him and to other members of the official opposition who want to speak at this time.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): I am fascinated to hear the way the minister introduced the bill, because he described in detail, more elaborate than I would have thought necessary, the work that has to be done ahead of us, all this education and so on. I drew from that the inevitable conclusion that the minister has no early intention of proclaiming this bill if it's passed.

The reason I'm concerned about that, and the question I have, is (1) when does he intend to proclaim the bill and (2) is he going to be able to get the funding from the law foundation that was promised to support the second bill in light of what the Treasurer and the government are inevitably going to do to the law foundation at or around the time of the budget?

Hon Mr Hampton: In answer to the member for St George-St David, we anticipate, and I tried to outline this in my brief remarks, that we will need at least six months to implement the legislation. Following passage by the House and royal assent, we will have to work through all the steps I have indicated: designing the class proceedings fund, adapting the rules of court, consultation with the law society, some attention paid to judicial education and then, finally, drafting the regulations which must be in place and establishing the class proceedings committee. We will have to do all that; that will take about six months. We acknowledge that the act does require money. However, I've received no indication at this time that this will create a difficulty. It's my understanding that we will be able to manage that.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): At the outset I want to say that we obviously support the legislation and will be voting for it, but I will be less delicate than the former Attorney General, the member for St George-St David, when he just posed his particular question.

What we have just seen from the Attorney General is a very transparent attempt to further delay this legislation. I think it's very important that we look at the process that has unfolded since this government has been elected with respect to these two bills.

The former Attorney General introduced this very bill—these two bills, 28 and 29—in June 1990, and of course those bills died in Orders and Notices with the calling of the election. The NDP government was elected in September 1990, and we thought this government and this Attorney General were committed to this legislation, because on December 17, 1990, it was introduced for first reading. However, we then found out that it took some full year before this government brought this legislation forward for second reading and further debate and vote in principle. We could not at that time guess why this government was delaying these bills.

1530

The next thing that tipped the hand of the government in terms of its true intentions occurred in the standing committee on administration of justice. When this Legislature referred this legislation to the standing committee on administration of justice we saw the spectacle of the government side filibustering its own legislation.

In November 1991, at second reading, the opposition parties both spoke to this legislation and both wanted it to proceed as quickly as possible. We finished the debate in about 15 or 20 minutes. The government had no further matters to bring forward and the parliamentary assistant, in effect, filibustered the government's own bill, the class action legislation, at that time on second reading.

The matter was referred to committee. In committee, both opposition parties had no amendments to bring forward, the government had no amendments to bring forward, and yet despite the request of the opposition parties, the government refused to bring the legislation back in December and have it voted on for third reading and royal assent before the Christmas break. That was in December 1991.

We had discussions off the record, the opposition parties and some other interested parties, as to why this government would want to delay this legislation. We now see that it is brought forward for third reading and upon introduction for third reading the minister lays the groundwork in great detail, which we did not see before, which we did not hear before, as to why he is being prevented by some other forces from going forward with this legislation, on which there is an overwhelming consensus right across the board, all the stakeholders, the public, the ministry, the opposition parties.

What has happened since this was introduced for first reading back in November 1990 that the Attorney General has to now say, "We are going to set up an advisory committee and we are going to consult with an advisory committee on implementation and on funding, and we have to consult with the law society"? The minister knew he had the full support of this Legislature, the full support of the legal profession, the full support of the public and he sat idly by.

I believe the reason and the rationale are that this government is not now committed to this legislation for some unstated and unknown reason which we can only speculate on, and which I will speculate on because we believe that the agenda for this ministry is non-existent. The agenda of the previous administration, for which there is a total consensus, is being stymied by this Attorney General and this government. The Attorney General raises his eyebrows. I simply have a question for the Attorney General: Why has it taken so long?

To put it in context, we have to know that the public in Ontario is very disenchanted with elected officials at all levels. In fact, they are disenchanted with the administration of justice and in many cases with the legal profession. The conduct of this government, where there is something that is very easy to rectify in terms of the process, is not defensible. It's not defensible to the public and it's not defensible to the legal profession. The public will continue to have a growing cynicism when governments cannot respond in ways that are obvious, in ways that are necessary and in ways that are affordable.

As I mentioned the other day, the legal issues in this province and the problems they are creating are growing in a geometric progression. This minister and this ministry cannot even deal with them on a level playing field or an arithmetic progression. They're falling further and further behind in almost every component of the administration of justice.

One might blame it on the fact that there was internal turmoil in the ministry. There was trouble with the Deputy Minister, Mary Hogan, and so forth, but this agenda item was agreed to by all parties in the previous Parliament with the previous government. It was introduced by this government within a couple of months after its election. There is no reason why it didn't come forward other than there being some force within the ministry which is causing the government and the Attorney General to be frozen on the spot and unable to act on anything.

I do want to go over and put this legislation in context, because it is long overdue. As I said, there is no reason the

government is not going forward with it. The push for class proceedings legislation has been long-standing in many jurisdictions including Ontario. I just want to itemize some of them for the record at this time to remind the Attorney General that in my opinion he is being negligent. It's a derogation of his duty not to proceed full speed ahead and not to have done the consultation and not to have drafted regulations beforehand.

I want to review some of the background for the Attorney General. Perhaps he's been too embroiled in turmoil within his own ministry to recall where this legislation comes from and how it got to his desk and our legislative agenda at the present time. The impetus for reform in this area came from a number of sources. The Supreme Court of Canada, in *General Motors of Canada Ltd v Naken*, in 1982 noted the inadequacy of the existing rule 12, which was then rule 75, for meaningful class actions. The existing rule did not and does not provide the court sufficient guidance for managing complex litigation.

What the court basically was saying was that even though there's good intentions to increase access to the courts, the present legislative regulatory structure of the rules of court did not provide an adequate framework for class proceedings. What that means is that even up to today there are people who ought to have a say in court and who ought to have the protection of the courts, who do not have the protection of the courts. That was an interpretation from the Supreme Court of Canada back in 1982.

In 1982 the Ontario Law Reform Commission published its report on class actions, which recommended new comprehensive procedures. I guess new in 1982 at this stage is pretty old and it still hasn't been done. The Ministry of the Attorney General hosted a conference called the Access to Civil Justice Conference in June 1988 in Toronto. Participants called for a new class action procedure as a way of increasing access to the justice system. That initiative was taken by the Liberal government at that time under the former Attorney General, the member for St George-St David. Additionally, the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, at its August 1988 meeting in Toronto, also approved in principle class action reform along certain specific lines.

It's interesting to see the terminology "reform." The NDP government and the NDP agenda are supposed to be all about reform. Reform was undertaken by the Liberal government by introducing this legislation and this supposedly reform-minded NDP agenda has put a full stop to it. Even though the legislation is here, the Attorney General today is creating excuses why it probably will be at least a year or longer before this long-requested reform is actually implemented.

If I can go on with some of the background, in January 1989 the Alberta committee on fair dealing in consumer savings and investments published its report entitled *A Blueprint for Fairness*. The committee recommended that consumers have a civil right of action on a class basis allowing government to participate where consumers suffer losses due to breach of the proposed Consumer Savings and Investment Information Act.

1540

We have similar consumer legislation in Ontario. There are groups such as the Consumers' Association of Canada. There's such a broad consensus for this legislation, I still cannot understand why today, effectively, the minister announces additional delays. Quebec has had class actions available to litigants for over a decade. Ontario is lagging far behind and this Attorney General is creating additional delays.

The United States has had class actions available to litigants at both the state and federal levels for over 25 years. We're 25 years behind the times. We're 10 years behind the time when everyone in this province was advising various governments to proceed. The Attorney General stands in his place today, believe it, on third reading and creates excuses why he's not going to implement this bill as soon as possible. We can only guess at the reasons for that.

The former Attorney General introduced for first reading the Class Proceedings Act, 1990, in June 1990, which would make available a comprehensive procedure for claims on behalf of numerous persons who have suffered the same loss or injury. The procedure is designed to provide a more efficient and streamlined method for the court to deal with complex litigation affecting the interests of hundreds or even thousands of persons.

I want to give a little additional background because I want to relate this background to the statements that were made by the Attorney General and the Ministry of the Attorney General back in 1990 when they decided to reintroduce the former Attorney General's bill. The Attorney General at that time—this is 1989—announced the formation of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Class Action Reform, which was to be made up of representatives of business interests, consumers, lawyers and environmentalists.

I mentioned earlier that there was a broad consensus among the public and the legal profession, and in fact within the ministry. This advisory committee was composed of the following: the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Retail Council of Canada, the Consumers' Association of Canada, Energy Probe, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the Advocates' Society, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Bar Association—Ontario.

That committee, which consulted on a very substantive basis with the government, made a number of recommendations. There were certain terms of reference for that committee. The committee's terms of reference require that it design the legal infrastructure of a class action for Ontario within certain parameters. The parameters were as follows:

1. The consultations would start from the premise that the class action remedy would treat plaintiffs and defendants in a fair and equitable manner and would impose no unnecessary burdens on the courts.

2. The remedy would include a structured certification procedure in which a judge would screen potential class actions according to specific tests.

3. A rule that all class members who do not specifically opt out would be included in the action.

4. A presumption that notice would be given to class members following certification, unless otherwise ordered by the court, would be included.

5. There would be a controlled contingency fee arrangement. I will say more on that a bit later.

6. There would be no special role for the Attorney General in class actions.

7. Undistributed awards would be returned to the defendant following the expiry of the relevant limitation period except with respect to environmental cases, which would be given further consideration by the advisory committee.

8. The new class action remedy would apply in all types of claims and that balanced court rules and procedures should apply to this unique remedy. In particular, it would be applicable in environmental litigation and consumer litigation.

9. The ministries of the Environment and Consumer and Commercial Relations, which have been considering introducing class action remedies in their legislation, would contribute their expertise and would leave the creation of the class action remedy to the Attorney General's consultation process while its work was ongoing.

The committee delivered a unanimous report to the Attorney General in February 1990 recommending a specific design for the procedure and its methods of delivery to litigants, the courts and the public. The committee approved the Class Proceedings Act, 1990, as introduced by the then Attorney General.

We had a framework within which the committee was operating. We had a unanimous report from a very broad public interest group. We had legislation drafted and we had unanimous consent on it. That is the background against which the then Attorney General, the member for St George-St David, introduced the class proceedings legislation which now finds its way into Bills 28 and 29.

I want to read into the record the statement of the then Attorney General when he introduced this legislation in 1990. I think it's instructive because at the end of that statement the member for St George-St David, on behalf of the government and I believe speaking on behalf of that overwhelming consensus that produced this legislation, indicated that it was the hope of everyone that it would be passed quickly for the benefit of the people of Ontario.

We now see that is not the case and that this government and this ministry is really creating impediments to its implementation. Again, as I said, I do want to read the member's statement of that day in June 1990. He said:

"A little less than a year ago, on 29 June 1989, I announced in the Legislature this government's intention to undertake class action reform.

"Members will recall that a class action or a class proceeding is a special procedure that permits numerous individuals who have suffered a common wrong to seek redress in one lawsuit as a group, rather than in numerous lawsuits as individuals. It can be a valuable tool for litigants since it will provide an effective means to achieve com-

pensation for widespread harm or injury while at the same time saving limited court time and resources.

"Our society will unfortunately continue to see incidents of mass loss similar to the Mississauga train derailment, the Dalkon Shield case, mass environmental damage, defective products and other consumer losses."

If I can interrupt my reading of the remarks of the member for St George-St David, I want to say that this is the type of action that this government at this time is saying it's going to delay implementing. There are thousands of people out there who are crying for this type of remedy, including the legal profession, the Consumers' Association of Canada and all kinds of other groups.

"These are all examples of the kinds of claims that may be treated...more efficiently in a class proceeding.

"On 29 June 1989, I set out...several principles of reform to which the government was committed. Around those principles, I formed a broadly representative advisory committee to make recommendations. That committee has produced a unanimous report which is being tabled today and on the basis of which I am pleased to introduce a bill entitled the Class Proceedings Act, 1990."

Again if I can interrupt my reading of the quote, that was in June 1990. Again I repeat, we have the Attorney General standing up here today in opposition to that unanimous consent saying why there will be impediments put in the way to implementing the class proceedings legislation. I continue the quote of the then Attorney General:

"The act builds upon the important work of the Ontario Law Reform Commission, which completed an exhaustive review of this field in 1982 and published a report that has been hailed as an important contribution to scholarship in the class action area. Although the report presented a powerful case for reform, none was forthcoming at the time.

1550

"This government did not feel it would be appropriate to prepare legislation affecting so many people without the advice of business, environmentalists, lawyers and consumers. It is for that reason that I established the Advisory Committee on Class Action Reform, whose membership included representatives of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Retail Council of Canada, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Environmental Law Association, Energy Probe, the Advocates' Society, the Canadian Bar Association of Ontario and the Insurance Bureau of Canada."

What we see today is the Attorney General saying he is going to consult further with respect to regulations, funding and implementation. This is a disgrace. After the amount of consultation that has gone forward, the commitment that this government, the commitment that this Attorney General had to this legislation when he was in opposition as the critic for the Ministry of the Attorney General, to come forward now after lengthy delays since September 1990 and meekly put forward a series of excuses for additional delay is beyond all credibility. We have to ask why. Perhaps the minister will explain why.

The explanations he gave as to what he is doing do not answer why he is just starting to do that now, why he is

going to start drafting regulations, why he is going to consult on regulations now. He knew this legislation was going to be passed when it was introduced for first reading. He could've had it passed in one day. In November 1990 he could've obtained first, second and third reading from this Legislature, this legislation was so supported by this House and his own government. Yet he waited a full year between first and second reading and now he is raising a whole series of reasons why he is going to delay further.

If I can continue with the comments of the former Attorney General with respect to this legislation, the then Attorney General gave a word of thanks to the members of that advisory committee who worked as volunteers on a complex subject and produced sound and unanimous advice for the former government. I must say that given the delays that this Attorney General is seemingly implementing, I don't think much thanks would go to this particular government.

"The highlights of the proposed procedure"—in the legislation—"are as follows: The class proceeding will include a step in which a judge will screen potential class proceedings according to a specific test; members of the class who do not wish to participate in the class proceeding will have the opportunity to exclude themselves, or opt out, of the proceeding; the representative plaintiff will be required to ensure that the class members obtain notice of the proceedings; and once certified by the court, the proceeding would continue in a manner similar to other civil litigation, but with some significant differences, namely, that one judge will hear all the motions up to the trial and the court will have the ability to make aggregate judgments in cases where the only issue is the assessment of damages for many individuals.

"Normal cost rules for litigation will apply, but lawyers and their clients will be permitted to engage in special fee arrangements for such proceedings, subject to the court having final control over all fees and disbursement arrangements.

"The bill's provisions ensure that plaintiffs and defendants are treated fairly and that the class proceeding make a positive contribution to the resolution of civil disputes."

As the member for St George-St David said at that time:

"I am also pleased to announce the establishment of a class proceedings fund in the amount of \$500,000, to be administered by the sole contributor, the Law Foundation of Ontario. This fund, which was a part of the advisory committee's unanimous recommendations, will provide financial assistance and some cost security to those litigants who are prepared to undertake the class proceedings on behalf of themselves and others."

It is very strange, given the establishment in principle of that fund back in June 1990, that the Attorney General stands in his place today and says, quite sheepishly I might add: "We've got to consult. We've got to speak to the law society. We must look at regulations, and it might take six months." As my colleague says, what have they been doing? They have been doing absolutely nothing with respect to this legislation. They've been delaying their own

legislation that they supported in opposition and introduced in November 1990. It's just unbelievable that the Attorney General could be so irresponsible with respect to this legislation.

In concluding my quote of the member for St George-St David's statement when he introduced the bill, he said at that time, "I hope that we can enact it quickly in order that the people of Ontario can finally benefit from this important access to justice" initiative.

That last quote is significant, because the Attorney General and this government supported the legislation when it was introduced in June 1990. Now we on this side cannot believe when, in introducing it for third reading, the Attorney General stands in his place and says: "Well, we're going to have some delays now because we have to start consulting. We have to look at how the funding will go into place. The law society has a few things to say about it."

We can only speculate, as I said earlier. We can only speculate that this legislation is being delayed for specific purposes. The specific purpose is that this government does not have the financial commitment to it, and the Treasurer and the Premier are tying the hands of the Attorney General. Alternatively, the ministry and the Attorney General have a much larger agenda that they're not prepared to talk to us about at the present time, that they're looking at this legislation in a much larger context. They're looking at it in terms of an environmental bill of rights. They're looking at it in terms of consumer legislation, and they want to tie together class proceedings on a whole series of fronts with various pieces of other legislation.

I only say that because one can infer that from the statement from the Attorney General when he introduced the class proceedings legislation in December 1990. I want to refer to the minister's news release of December 17, 1990, with respect to this legislation, because I think it's very instructive. It's dated December 17: "Attorney General Howard Hampton introduced legislation today which will support the government's plans to develop an environmental bill of rights."

There's nothing in this legislation talking about the environment or any particular type of action, and yet this bill is introduced in the context of an environmental bill of rights. Now what do we have here? Do we have the Attorney General usurping the Minister of the Environment's area of responsibility? She is the person who responds on the environmental bill of rights. Yet in the news release in December 1990 it says, "Attorney General Howard Hampton introduced legislation today which will support the government's plans to develop an environmental bill of rights and provide another important avenue of access to justice in Ontario."

I'm glad the Attorney General has put the class proceedings legislation in a broader context, because I do in a few moments want to make some comment on that. The legislation, Bills 28 and 29, was introduced basically in identical form to the legislation that the member for St George-St David, the former Attorney General, had introduced. Obviously it has very broad application, and yet it is now being taken over by the Attorney General. In the

very first sentence of his news release, his communiqué, he is calling it a piece of environmental legislation.

1600

We now see the Attorney General in this Legislature delaying implementation of the class proceedings legislation. He's delaying it in the same fashion as the Minister and the Ministry of the Environment are delaying the environmental bill of rights. A secret agenda exists which neither the Minister of the Environment nor the Ministry of the Attorney General is addressing.

Mr Speaker, I want to bring to your attention this news release of the Attorney General when he introduced Bills 28 and 29 in the Legislature. It's very relevant.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): What date was it?

Mr Chiarelli: December 17, 1990. The press release goes on:

"An advisory committee on the law of standing has also been created to examine the basis on which individuals have access to the courts when raising important issues of public interest."

Now we have the Ministry of the Attorney General doing a bill of rights on environmental matters. We have this other committee with respect to the law of standing. We have the class proceedings legislation which I believe the Attorney General thinks is ahead of its time, because there is an agenda that exists somewhere in the deep caverns of this NDP government which it is not talking about, and it has specifically, expressly, caused a process of delay on Bills 28 and 29, class proceedings; it has specifically caused and created delays with an environmental bill of rights. We see government members having set up a committee with respect to standing in the courts which is very significant with respect to access to justice.

So if there is an agenda with this government it is not stating it. If there is an agenda, government members want to come out with a monumental propaganda machine with environmental bill of rights, law of standing, contingency fees and a whole series of other matters. But in the meantime, at what cost? At the cost of the implementation of Bills 28 and 29.

Justice delayed is justice denied. There are all kinds of people being denied access to justice by reason of a number of issues, not the least of which is the lack of an opportunity to proceed with class proceedings before the courts. This government supposedly is committed to it, was committed to it in opposition, has introduced this legislation and has brought it forward for third reading, and the minister today brings in a whole series of reasons why there will be delay in implementation. In fact, he stated quite specifically that there will be delay in implementation.

That's not acceptable. Even though there's no general policy in this government with respect to access to justice, it has a very comprehensive, well-thought-out piece of legislation on which there is 100% consensus and it is delaying it.

They delayed it, as I mentioned, from November 1990 to, I think, December 1991 for first to second reading. Why did they defer it for that one year? I see the parlia-

mentary assistant sitting there. He has not got one good reason it was delayed. He has not got one good reason that it did not come before this Legislature in December for third reading, royal assent and proclamation. Then the six or 12 months that the Attorney General is now asking for—which I assure you, Mr Speaker, will be a lot longer—would have been completed and this legislation would be effective today in Ontario. There is absolutely no good reason for delay in this legislation.

If I can quote again from the minister's statement of December 17, 1990, "I am pleased to introduce this legislation because it forms an important part of this government's larger strategy to provide a procedure to assist in redressing environmental loss, among other types of widespread harm or injury," said Mr Hampton." Was this bill an apology to the Minister of the Environment because she was shelving her environmental bill of rights?

This bill had little to do with the environmental bill of rights. It provides a way people can have access to the courts by way of class action. Certainly it applies to environmental actions, but this legislation doesn't refer to environmental rights in any way, shape or form. When the member for St George-St David introduced it, it didn't refer to an environmental bill of rights. Yet in December the whole introduction is couched in the framework of giving environmental rights.

Either the minister is misreading the broad scope of Bills 28 and 29 or, when he introduced this legislation, he wanted to do a bit of baffle-gab and let the environmentalists think they were doing something significant. I believe, on reading this document that was put out by the Attorney General, that a lot of people would definitely have the wrong impression. I'm not so sure that isn't what was intended by this particular announcement, because it was all put in the framework of an environmental bill of rights. The announcement goes on to explain the framework of the Class Proceedings Act, 1990, and Bill 29, An Act to amend the Law Society Act to provide for Funding to Parties to Class Proceedings.

To give a bit more credence to the points I am currently making, I want to refer to a news article that appeared in the Globe and Mail on December 18, which is the day after the Attorney General made that particular announcement and introduced the legislation for first reading. It says, "Mr Hampton said this legislation would also form part of the NDP's program to protect the environment by giving the power to sue to those affected by toxic spills or poisonous emissions." Once again we see the Attorney General trying to take the Minister of the Environment off the hook.

When we see the process this government and this Attorney General are taking, it raises two questions. The first one is the efficiency with which this government does its business: how long it has taken or not taken to implement this legislation. If I could just review very briefly, it was introduced for first reading in December 1990. Even though there was 100% unanimity—it could have been passed the same day; second reading, third reading—this government delayed a full year before it introduced it for second reading.

1610

On second reading, I believe in November or December of 1991, once again both opposition parties endorsed this legislation. They had no amendments to offer and urged the government to pass it quickly. I can recall very specifically on that day, when second reading was being considered, the spectacle of government members consulting with one another in whispers because they had to fill the balance of the day filibustering their very own legislation, these very same bills, Bills 28 and 29, which the minister indicated today he will delay in implementation.

It raises all kinds of questions. There's a question of timing. I don't know whether I can speak for the Conservative critic for the ministry, but certainly we were not expecting this minister to stand in his place today and very sheepishly and defensively create a number of excuses why they will not be implementing this legislation in a timely fashion. It was extremely transparent. Again, we can only say "Why?" I hope the people in the legal profession and in the environmental movement who are relying on this legislation will hold this government accountable for the delays in this legislation.

The second issue raised by this government's and this minister's delay in implementation of this legislation is the whole issue of access to justice. There are a number of areas dealing with access to justice, of which Bills 28 and 29 are only one and which the Attorney General tried to incorporate when he made his statement introducing the bills for first reading.

One of the biggest issues with respect to access to justice is the question of funding. Who pays for court proceedings? We are now dealing with Bills 28 and 29. Bill 29 tries to address that. If I can read from the explanatory notes:

"The bill amends the Law Society Act to provide for the class proceedings fund and establish the class proceedings committee. The class proceedings fund is to be administered by the Law Foundation of Ontario.

"A plaintiff to a class proceeding may apply to the class proceedings committee for financial support from the class proceedings fund in respect of the plaintiff's disbursements related to the proceeding. The bill sets out criteria for the committee to consider in deciding whether to fund a plaintiff. A defendant to a class proceeding is entitled to payment from the class proceedings fund in respect of costs awards made in the proceeding in the defendant's favour against a plaintiff who has received support from the fund.

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council is given regulation-making powers relating to the class proceedings fund."

That's one of the reasons the minister has indicated he is going to delay implementation. That's identical to the explanatory notes that existed in June 1990, in November 1990 and in 1991 when we looked at second reading.

Again, I want to put it in the context of access to justice, because the minister himself has done that with respect to relating it to the environmental bill of rights and to giving remedies to people who suffer class wrongs from environmental conduct of one type or another.

It is related very directly to the issue of intervenor funding. In a sense, Bill 29 provides a type of intervenor funding. There is legislation in existence, the Intervenor Funding Project Act, which was introduced in a three-year pilot project by the former government and was in place when this government assumed office in September 1990.

When in opposition, this government moved to amend the Intervenor Funding Project Act. In fact the now Minister of the Environment, who was the opposition critic at that time, moved an amendment to the Liberal legislation which would have extended that intervenor funding. It's intervenor funding which is very similar to the type of application that would be made under Bill 29.

She moved to expand that funding which would be available for something that is similar to a class proceeding so that in addition to the Environmental Assessment Board and the Ontario Energy Board, for which applications for funding were available, funding should be available to other administrative tribunals in the province, including the Ontario Municipal Board. She spoke very eloquently for that. Of course now she's delaying her environmental bill of rights and we have the minister here delaying Bills 29 and 28 and we have the minister trying to put Bills 28 and 29 in the context of an environmental law and in fact protecting environmental advocates.

This government had the opportunity to improve access to legal proceedings when a private member's bill was introduced and again to amend the intervenor funding project legislation to include the Ontario Municipal Board. The Ontario Municipal Board hears very significant cases having to do with municipalities, large developers, and more often than not they involve issues of very significant environmental concern, and this government, through its private members, voted not to extend the environmental project act to include significant matters before the Ontario Municipal Board.

There are significant environmental and community groups that wanted access to administrative tribunals and that could have received it by expansion of the intervenor funding project legislation, and as Bills 28 and 29 are being delayed here today by the minister, this same minister is delaying any expansion of the intervenor funding project legislation. A committee report which ought to have been provided to this Legislature on that legislation is still not forthcoming. Sure, at the last minute this three-year pilot project which was introduced by the Liberal administration was extended by this government, but it did not give the committee report when it did so. It did not give further expansion of it; it didn't expand it to the Ontario Municipal Board, which the Minister of the Environment advocated when she was in opposition; it did not extend access to administrative tribunals whatsoever.

We don't know what the paralysis is in this ministry. We simply do not understand why they are introducing delay after delay. Perhaps they just don't have the money for the justice system. If that's the case, why don't they come clean? Why doesn't the minister stand in his place, instead of playing the old-time politics which this government was supposed to change, and say, "We're going to introduce it, we're going to give it third reading, we're

going to give it royal assent, but we won't proclaim it because we don't have the \$500,000 to fund Bill 29?"

If that's the case, we would understand it, but the minister stands in his place and he comes forward with implausible excuses. They're totally implausible and transparent. He has come in here like a little school child who's been admonished by the Treasurer: "Howie, go in, make any excuse. We don't have the money. We ain't got the money, but don't tell the people that. Just find some way to delay Bills 28 and 29 from being implemented."

This government is a government that promised honesty. It promised to be straightforward with the public. It is not and this is a prime example. They are playing old-time politics more than the other governments in this province have ever done.

1620

Interjections.

Mr Chiarelli: I hear some comments coming from the peanut gallery for the NDP and I think—

Mr Harnick: Just the member for Downsview. He always makes a speech a little easier.

Mr Chiarelli: Yes, the member for Downsview, who is an expert on access to justice in the province of Ontario, has a few words to say. That member does not even know the commitment that his government is breaking.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): You don't even know my meaning. How could you know that? Don't point your finger at—

Mr Chiarelli: This member knows nothing about what his ministry is doing.

Interjections.

Mr Chiarelli: The caucus doesn't even know what the justice agenda is in this province. The Attorney General doesn't even know what the justice agenda is in this province, because he is waffling on every major issue. He doesn't even have the capacity to organize his own office.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Put your finger down.

Mr Chiarelli: This finger, to the member opposite, is a proper finger for admonishing the government. It's not the improper finger that some members on that side occasionally address to this side of the House.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Order, please. There is controversy and that's understandable. All members will have an opportunity when their turns come to participate in the debate and have their moment in the sun. In the meantime, the honourable member for Ottawa West has the floor and he can resume his participation in the third reading of Bill 28.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: In reviewing the procedures for this House, and I'm going to be reviewing Hansard very closely, I would suggest to you that what I inferred from the member is that he used the L-word in reference to this government and this party and that's definitely unparliamentary. I would ask you to give him an opportunity to withdraw that here and now.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I listened very closely and, yes, the honourable member made an accusation of the government. He did not make an accusation of any one individual member.

Mr Chiarelli: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I had pointed out in my remarks earlier the unusual spectacle of the Attorney General introducing Bills 28 and 29 with an aura of environmental concern. His press release on the day that he introduced Bills 28 and 29 for first reading very specifically referred to environmental protection and giving rights to environmentalists. There's a very strange juxtaposition between the Attorney General's statement in November 1990 and the Minister of the Environment's statement with respect to the environmental bill of rights that she made in this House on October 1, 1991.

The consultation process that took place in the previous government and that continued with the NDP government with respect to Bills 28 and 29 included the Canadian Environmental Law Association, which is very significant because Bills 28 and 29 do impact on the rights of members of a class to bring action in a way that's reasonable and in a way that's long overdue. So the environmental law association was quite appropriately involved in that process.

It is also involved in another process, which is referred to in the Minister of the Environment's statement. The whole issue of the environmental bill of rights is another access-to-justice issue, as are Bills 28 and 29. So I want to refer to the minister's statement that she made to the Legislature on October 1, 1991. She said, "I wish to take this opportunity to advise the members of the Legislature about the progress of the environmental bill of rights and the next stage in its development."

Keep in mind that this statement is being made over a year after the election of the NDP government in September 1990, and after over one year's delay, she there is in the process of making excuses for delays in the very same way that the Attorney General stood in his place today and set the groundwork for making excuses for delays of Bills 28 and 29, the class proceedings legislation. I will continue with her statement of October 1, 1991:

"My commitment to this bill has long been a matter of record in the Legislature. Our goal is simple but of profound importance"—so profound that she continues to delay it, but in any case—"to give the citizens of Ontario the right to act to protect the environment."

Well, my goodness, that's exactly what, in November 1990, the Attorney General said Bills 28 and 29 would do, and for which he has delayed it for close to two years. What is going on with this government? Do they have any answers to these questions? I'm sure the parliamentary assistant will. He's over there smiling like a Cheshire cat, knowing that he's got an answer to all these questions. But the fact of the matter is that he doesn't have answers to the questions. He, like his cabinet colleagues, has excuses. They have excuses; they don't have answers to the questions.

If I can continue with the Minister of the Environment's statement: "I am pleased to advise the Legislature today

that I have now established the minister's Task Force on the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights."

Well, well. We see the Attorney General setting up committees on how to spend the \$500,000 fund with the law society, probably money which they don't have, and we see the Minister of the Environment setting up a committee on how to delay implementation of—and it's a very serious matter—access to justice. The access-to-justice issues are growing by leaps and bounds. Society is changing, technology is changing, the court process is changing, and this government is standing there marking time, treading water. There has got to be a conscious decision on the part of the government to delay implementation of all these access-to-justice issues, including Bills 28 and 29, which we will vote for, which will pass today or whenever it comes to a vote.

I want to continue with the Minister of the Environment's statement of October 1, 1991:

"This task force is made up of representatives from business, environmental groups and government. The members will draw upon their expertise and experience to design a draft bill.

"The task force is co-chaired by my deputy minister, Gary Posen, and Michael Cochrane, a senior counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General. The members of the task force are"—this is very significant, who the members of the task force are, because the groups that were drawn upon are almost the identical groups that the former Attorney General, the member for St George-St David, drew on for Bills 28 and 29.

1630

That group of consultation was already in place. It was in place in 1989, established by the member for St George-St David at that time. Yet we have a Minister of the Environment who is talking about access to justice, who waits over a year, since October 1, 1991, to say that she's going to set up a similar committee to the one the member for St George-St David had set up in 1989.

But in any case, who was involved in that consultation committee? The Business Council on National Issues, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Environmental Law Association. I might say parenthetically that's the group that supported expansion of the Intervenor Funding Project Act when it was moved by the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore in opposition, when I had introduced a private member's bill to expand the intervenor funding and which was in favour of it when I reintroduced it under the NDP administration and which is still lobbying for it. This government continues to resist access to justice issues and we don't know why.

If I can continue, the groups which are involved in the minister's consultation group are the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of the Environment, Pollution Probe and the law firm of Miller, Thomson. I think it's very instructive as well.

I have a scrum report summary which refers to the Minister of the Environment's comments after she had made that statement. I think it's very important that we review the record because, I want to repeat, once again there is a theme developing from this government, that

every access to justice issue—and in fact, you might say a judgement issue—but every access to justice issue is being delayed. It's being delayed consciously and we don't know why.

Maybe the ministry was paralysed by Mary Hogan. Maybe that's why she is gone. Hopefully, with the new deputy, we'll see things move with an agenda. You're way behind time, parliamentary assistant, who's sitting there. You've lost so much time it's unbelievable, with respect to justice issues. We hope Mr Thomson can bring you up to speed because certainly your minister can't and has not been able to.

But if I can get back to this particular access to justice issue, the scrum report: "Ruth Grier told the reporters that the minister's Task Force on the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights was established due to the need for consensus. One reporter asked whether the NDP government lacks confidence to draft its own legislation. 'Weren't you elected to draft legislation?' Grier responded that the task force will facilitate the process of consultation which, in her opinion, is simply more important.

"When asked why the Minister of the Environment did not pursue the legislation which was drafted when the minister was in opposition, since it was 'good enough to run an election campaign,' Grier said that this project requires more work and time than she had originally anticipated. 'You're entirely misinterpreting what we do as useful, effective and meaningful.'"

We have the Minister of the Environment on an access to justice issue that is very relevant to the Ministry of the Attorney General basically saying that she exercised bad judgement in opposition because she introduced a bill without consultation, without knowing the implementation. She has exercised bad judgement again in government by delaying implementation of the environmental bill of rights which she is committed to doing.

I want to refer to a statement that was issued by our critic for the Environment dealing with the environmental bill of rights which is very significant. I think, looking at Bills 28 and 29 and the delays the Attorney General indicated today, that these statements are very relevant.

It says, and this is from the member for Brampton North, our critic on the issue of the environmental bill of rights: "Despite her promise over a year ago the Minister of the Environment has been unable to deliver on an environmental bill of rights, and has just now decided to consult, Liberal Environment critic Carman McClelland, MPP for Brampton North, said today.

"'With all the help in the bureaucracy, all the able people, it's amazing that the minister has still not been able to produce [the bill] in the time she has had. In fact, it's ironic because she already has a bill ready to go; she tabled one while in opposition,' said McClelland. 'Now, having come to a point where she's unable to do what she said she would do, she says she has to consult again.'"

The Attorney General has indicated in his release with respect to Bills 28 and 29 that it was for environmental protection that Bills 28 and 29 were introduced in November 1990. Yet he has had a course of significant delay that is very similar to that of the Minister of the Environment.

If I can continue with the comments by the member for Brampton North:

"During the 1990 election campaign, the NDP promised that if elected they would immediately introduce an environmental bill of rights which would spell out Ontarians' right to a healthy environment, and make it easier for citizens to sue polluters."

Interjection: "Immediately."

Mr Chiarelli: Yes, the operative word is "immediately."

"However, today, Environment Minister Ruth Grier said a new task force, with representatives from business, environmental groups and the government would take several months to come up with draft legislation." Several months are long gone, the same as the 12 months were long gone between first reading and second reading of Bills 28 and 29, the bills we're concerned with here today. "Grier also added she doesn't know when the government will introduce the actual legislation, but promised it would be in place some time before the next election."

Well, how convenient. Some time before the next election could be five years from the "immediately" that she promised when she was appointed Minister of the Environment. This is the government that promised to eliminate cynicism from government. This is the government that promised a new, better, more honest way in its first throne speech. The words don't match the music.

"While she was in opposition, the minister had all the answers," said McClelland. "Today, she's in government and has no answers."

The only answer she has is to consult and maybe we'll have it before the next election. She's using her minister, the Attorney General, as the fall guy or the fall person. He has to take Bills 28 and 29, which were introduced, which do not specify anything about the environment, which are class action proceedings legislation dealing with a wide range of possible causes of action in the courts, and he has got to introduce it with all these references to an environmental bill of rights to take his minister off the hook. Having done that when he introduced it for first reading, he now embarks on a process of very significant delay.

If I can continue with the statement:

"McClelland also pointed out that there is not adequate representation, on the ministerial task force committee, from all groups. He cited the agricultural community, as an example.

"The minister's announcement is too little, too late. The minister has lost it in terms of what she said she was going to do," said McClelland."

1640

How true. And not only has the Minister of the Environment lost it, but the Attorney General; I'm not even sure he ever had it. In any case he doesn't have it now, because the administration of justice in this province is not adequate. There is no responsiveness to the access-to-justice issues that this province is dealing with at the present time.

I'm going to conclude my remarks, but I do—

[Applause]

Mr Chiarelli: I see the opposition is applauding my remarks. I'm glad some people in the opposition have the courage of their convictions and they're willing to applaud some constructive remarks from members of the opposition.

I do want to say, in summary and in conclusion, that there are no answers to a lot of the questions that are being raised. The access-to-justice issues are not being dealt with. There is no reason whatsoever why Bills 28 and 29 could not have been approved by this government before Christmas in 1991. If they needed five or six months to prepare regulations they could have had them drafted instead of sitting here debating access-to-justice issues and trying to be held accountable for delays. Then we would have the people of Ontario with new, good legislation that would enable persons of a class to bring actions before the courts in an effective, efficient manner.

As I mentioned, we will be supporting this legislation, but we want to know why the Attorney General stood in his place today and made excuses for delaying implementation, which he said he would, and we want to know why the other very significant issues with respect to access to justice, including the law of standing, the environmental bill of rights and matters with respect to contingency fees are not being dealt with by this government. I might add also the question of expanding intervenor funding, which is long overdue.

With that, I will conclude my remarks.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I'd just like to congratulate the member for the comments made on these very important bills. I think all members of the Legislature will be very aware that the member has canvassed not only the issues within the bill but also the implications of each of those particular provisions and how they seem to juxtapose themselves with other matters coming out of different ministries.

I think the member has been eloquent in his comments with respect to the seeming stalemate that the members of the government find themselves in, unable to address the issues at hand, issues which all people in this province are aware of, and unable to deal with the implications of the issues. It seems the member has well indicated that the only thing this particular government can do in addressing those issues is to consult and study and not to act.

The people of this province find that improper, in my opinion. That after so many years, in areas where the issues are very clear, where agreement has been reached, where funding is available, the government is still unable to take the next step in order to enact these initiatives into law is, I think, something the member has brought out well. As this afternoon proceeds there may be further comments on the actions or inactions of the government on issues of the day. I would just like to congratulate the member for his comments.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I'm somewhat perplexed at the length of time it's taken to bring this piece of legislation forward. It seems we've been here for over a year and a half now and this is 28—

Hon Mr Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): And you've stalled for most of it.

Mr Stockwell: Au contraire, the Minister of Transportation.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member only has two minutes to reply.

Mr Stockwell: I've obviously impressed the group across the floor. I thank them for their honest and heartfelt comments.

What I'd like to say is that a year and a half ago Bills 28 and 29 were introduced and we've waited now a year and a half, maybe two years, to see this legislation come forward. It in fact was sent to committee when no one wanted it sent to committee except the minister himself and the government, I suppose. There appears to be some foot-dragging on this piece of legislation. I know not why.

When they were in opposition they were very much in favour of this kind of legislation. When a government takes this length of time to introduce a piece of legislation that was generally widely accepted from this side of the House, I can only come to the conclusion that there seems to be some disagreement within its caucus or within its cabinet. I'm going to be very interested in seeing how this piece of legislation is implemented, strictly based on the fact that it has taken them so long to process a piece of legislation that should have been in here and through this House in months, let alone years.

Mr Mammoliti: I feel compelled to stand up again and just let people at home know exactly what I have been subjected to in the Legislature today. For the life of me I can't understand why a member of the opposition would stand up and criticize and point fingers, as he did so eloquently, and then turn around at the end of his speech and say: "It's a good piece of legislation. We're going to agree with it."

This is how they ran the government when they were in power: They would say one thing and do another. They would leave the impression that perhaps they meant one thing when in essence they meant another. This is something that people at home should know about.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member only has two minutes.

Mr Mammoliti: I cannot even hear myself and I can't understand why the members across are so rude. I think that when a member stands up and wants to say a couple of words, it's only polite that the honourable members allow that person to finish what he's saying. We've already taken 30 seconds of my valuable time. I only get two minutes.

The whole year and a half that I've been here, anyway, the member for Etobicoke West has continued to play this innocent role and this I'm-the-best, I'm-the-Lord type of approach.

I tell you, as I've told you before, strap yourself down; you're here in that seat, anyway, for a long time.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one further participant.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Just to point out something, the gist of the discussion we've had today with regard to Bill 28 has been the whole question about the delay. I just want to remind the member from the opposition that it was the recommendation of the former Attorney General, within the Liberal government, that this particular bill go back for consultation in order to really cover the bases that needed to be done to put this bill forward. If there was a delay it was because of that. I would remind the Speaker of that.

At this point I'll just leave it and let the member have his reply.

1650

Mr Chiarelli: There was lots of time for the consultation, from the day that this bill was introduced for first reading to third reading today. There's no good, logical reason for the delay.

The point I want to make is that Bills 28 and 29 are about people. They seem to be put in the context of legal process, about procedures and about what goes on in the Attorney General's office. But these bills are about people and for every day these bills are not passed and are not law, people are impacted very negatively.

It's this type of legislation that would enable people who have been injured by the Dalkon Shield, for example, to take a class action and get some remedy for the wrongs that've been done to them. In Ottawa-Carleton there was an environmental spill a number of years ago that destroyed the water system of a number of people in Manotick. This type of legislation would enable them to take some kind of action as a class. Because this legislation was delayed, those people cannot have the benefit of the protection of the law. Justice delayed is justice denied.

That's the exact point. This legislation could've been passed with unanimous consent a year ago. It's the action, or inaction, of the government that has caused those people out there not to have the right of action. There're all kinds of groups out there that've been injured by some sort of product liability or negligent production or manufacturing of products that should be banding together to take action against people who have manufactured negligently. These bills are bills about people.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I've enjoyed—

Mr Mammoliti: This is going to be exciting.

Mr Harnick: I haven't even been able to get my first sentence out and Mr Mammoliti has already provided me with half an hour of extra material.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Chair: Again, in the House here we don't use names; we refer to ridings. The member for somewhere in central North York has decided to use a member's name directly.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. I want to remind all members that when referring to a colleague within the Legislature, please refer to his riding or title.

Mr Harnick: My apologies for that slip. I meant to say the member for Yorkview, the member who's now

running hospitals and hotels. His background becomes more varied all the time. The beauty of being able to speak with the member for Yorkview, the member for Downsview and the member for Durham West here is that they provide you with extra material as you go along. I certainly hope that if we ever get into a situation where we're filibustering, they're all here and have their somewhat dim wits about them.

I've listened with some interest to the remarks of the member for Ottawa West this afternoon. One of the things the member for Ottawa West has said is that he believes—he may be right; I don't think so—there's some kind of hidden agenda around these particular pieces of legislation, Bill 28 and Bill 29. He thinks there is some hidden agenda and that's why these bills have been delayed for the past 18 or more months. With respect to the member for Ottawa West, I don't think there's a hidden agenda. I think my friends across the floor have enough trouble coming up with an actual agenda to get themselves from day to day that they couldn't be capable of having a hidden agenda. I don't think they have it in them. I don't believe the hidden agenda argument to Bill 28 and Bill 29.

What we really have is a comedy of errors. We have a couple of bills that were very well conceived. They were bills that were not done in the NDP tradition. They were bills that were honestly prepared by consultation, and even more than consultation, they were prepared on the basis of collaboration. The former Attorney General brought together people from a number of interest groups, varying walks of life, and they created the class proceedings bills that are before this House.

The NDP wouldn't do it in that manner. What the NDP would do is consult with people. They would consult with a whole group of people and say, "Here's what we're proposing." They wouldn't ever sit down with them and listen to what the interest groups were telling them. They would just tell a whole bunch of people they would call in, "Here's what we propose to do about class actions," or "Here's what we propose to do about the environmental bill of rights," or on any other issue.

Then, after they let them know, they would come out of the closed room because they do all their work behind closed doors—the consultation is never public—and then they would say, "We've consulted widely." Their idea of consultation is to tell people what they're going to do and say, "If you don't like it, well, too bad." That's their idea of consultation.

These bills were conceived by collaboration. In fact, business, labour, academics and ordinary consumers had the opportunity to sit together and prepare the legislation before us. That's why I'm really concerned with the fact that we have a bill prepared by way of a collaborative effort and the government can't live with that. It is doing everything it can to keep this bill from becoming law. That's why it's interesting when the member for Yorkview gets up to respond to the eloquent remarks of the member for Ottawa West and doesn't say a single thing about the substance of the bill. He just stands up and accuses the member for Ottawa West of pointing his finger and makes what are really ridiculous allegations. But he doesn't say

one single thing about the substance of the bill and that concerns me.

It concerns me that the Attorney General came here today and in presenting the bill for third reading never said a single thing about the importance or substance of the bill. The only person who's ever tried to say anything about the substance of the bill—and I believe he was quite eloquent—was the parliamentary assistant when the bill was presented for second reading.

I'm just amazed. I'm floored by the fact that here we are with a very significant piece of legislation and not one person on the government bench will stand up and talk about the substance of the bill, whether it's a good bill or a bad bill and why there's a delay in making it law. I'm somewhat flabbergasted by that approach to these two very important pieces of legislation that were models in terms of the way they were drafted.

If I was a member of the government I would be ashamed to have this kind of a response to legislation that's so important. I think it's appalling that no one on the government side of the Legislature prepared themselves to come here and speak to these bills. The only thing they're prepared to do is make allegations about an individual who makes a speech and happens to point his finger. The only things that rub off on them are these bald allegations, these peripheral insults hurled across the floor. That's what's significant to them.

Let me get into a bit of debate about this bill. It's interesting that the member for Ottawa West talked of access to justice. He went to great pains to talk about access to justice. When I look at some of the issues that exist in Ontario today dealing with access to justice I see so many issues and problems that were created between 1985 and 1990 when the Liberals were the government.

That's when the backlog of provincial court criminal cases became so extreme that we ended up with the Askov decision and 40,000 cases were tossed out of court. That developed during that period of time and the Attorney General between 1985 and 1990 was very cognizant of the backlog of cases. He never believed the Supreme Court would deal with it in the way it ultimately did. He had a solution and his solution was, "We're going to deal with this in an administrative way and eventually the problem will be solved."

Well, the Supreme Court of Canada didn't agree with the approach of the former Attorney General and the result was that because of the error in judgement he made, 40,000 criminal cases ended up being tossed out of our provincial courts. So when I listen to the Liberals talk about access to justice, it rings hollow.

1700

When I look at the other history that occurred during the time when the Liberals formed the government after their famous accord with the NDP, the socialist accord, the other major thing that occurred was that we had an amalgamation of the courts.

I look at that court system the socialists put together when they amalgamated the district court and the High Court in Ontario and I look at that court put together by the socialists, and now I see nothing but problems. I see cases

that can't get on, I see a shortage of judges, I see a shortage of courtrooms and I see a top-heavy bureaucracy that's been created that has shaken the foundations of the original High Court and the judges who sit in that court. I blame all of that on the former Liberal government and on the NDP for not putting a stop to it when it was elected, because it could have improved the system we now have. I think it is just shameful what the former government and this government have done to the court system in Ontario.

It's of some interest when we talk about access to justice—and that's what Bills 28 and Bill 29 represent—what the Chief Justice has said has happened to our courts. I blame this present government and I blame the previous Liberal government for creating this situation, but Chief Justice Callaghan says:

"As the constitutional imperative of trial within a reasonable time in criminal matters takes hold in our jurisdiction, the available court resources are being drained from civil litigation to criminal litigation. As the policy objective of the executive arm of government becomes the speedy disposition of criminal charges, the civil litigator will find it more and more difficult to get court time for the resolution of civil disputes. Surely the allocations of court resources are not decisions for the chief prosecutor and his bureaucrats in what we call an independent court system."

That is the net effect and the result of the Liberal amalgamation of the court system and the creation of a top-heavy bureaucracy that runs the courts out of the Attorney General's department, and nothing could be scarier for the citizens of this province.

The Chief Justice goes on to say:

"The system has failed because the Ministry of the Attorney General has imposed a top-heavy bureaucracy on the administration of the courts, one which has little experience in the courts and courts administration. It has failed because the government has failed to recognize the need to safeguard the judicial independence which makes the court different from government agencies."

What we have is the Chief Justice of Ontario telling us that we no longer have a judiciary that is independent of the executive arm of government, and that is a very dangerous situation. It's a situation that was created by the former Liberal government in its accord with the NDP, and it's a situation where the NDP government did not have the fortitude to put its foot down and say, "This is wrong," and stop. So when we talk about access to justice and I hear the Liberals talking about access to justice, it rings very hollow.

The other thing that comes to mind when I hear a Liberal talking about access to justice is that I think of small claims courts, and I think of the fact that when the Liberals took over in 1985 and entered into their famous accord with the NDP, they totally neglected the idea of the citizens' court, the small claims court. For seven years now, between the life of those two governments, we have had a situation where the small claims courts had a \$3,000 jurisdiction in Metropolitan Toronto and a \$1,000 jurisdiction through the rest of the province. It took this government almost two years to finally rectify that situation. The Liberals totally ignored it. Access to justice, as far as I'm concerned, meant nothing to them. But now we know

there's going to be this increase in jurisdiction and ultimately it's going to get to \$6,000.

We've had almost two years to make these decisions. When the parliamentary assistant made the announcement on behalf of the Attorney General the other day, none of the decisions had been made. We don't know who the judges are going to be. Are they going to be full-time judges? Are they going to be deputy judges? Are they going to reduce the number of the full-time judges, as they've continued to do, or are they going to increase the number of full-time judges? Are judges going to receive judicial immunity? All these questions are left up in the air. They're going to go out and consult. That's not access to justice.

If they take the lead of their Liberal predecessors, what they're going to do is create a new court with a higher jurisdiction and have a bureaucracy running that court that will not give the judiciary the judicial independence it needs to run the court in a fair way for the citizens of the province of Ontario. I urge the New Democratic government not to follow the lead of the Liberals when it talks about access to justice and not to do the things the Liberals did when they created the Ontario Court of Justice, but to create a Small Claims Court of equity that has judicial independence and as well protects the justices who will be serving the citizens of this province.

I'd like to go back for a minute more when we talk about access to justice and talk about something that doesn't affect most people in terms of their day-to-day use of the judicial system. We have a group of individuals who work within the justice system known as masters. The masters look after all the interlocutory or motion work during the course of civil litigation.

Mr Offer: They tax bills.

Mr Harnick: They tax bills for citizens who aren't satisfied with the costs their lawyers charge them. I appreciate the member for Mississauga North reminding me of that function of masters.

Under the Liberal government and through its brilliant—I say that with the greatest of sarcasm—reorganization of the Ontario Court of Justice, it forgot all about the masters. They forgot all about the work they do. They forgot that the masters have a case load they can't handle because it's too large. What have they done? They've left the masters of the Ontario Court of Justice in limbo. They have too much work to process, so they can't complete the motion work that needs completing and hopefully brings litigation to a settlement.

The prior Attorney General totally ignored the importance of masters and the current Attorney General is doing the same thing. I urge the New Democratic government not to follow in the footsteps of the Liberals if it believes in access to justice, because access to justice meant nothing to the Liberal government. If you follow in their footsteps, as you are, it appears that access to justice means very little to your government.

The other thing I might mention—again it was a problem created when the Liberals were in government—is that the justices of the peace, who look after so much of

the work under the Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act, certain municipal statutes and bylaws, no longer can continue to process the work that's put in front of them because there's too much work and not enough justices of the peace.

We have seen parking tickets tossed out of court. We've seen where the justice of the peace comes into his night court and looks and sees over 200 cases on the docket, says, "I'm not going to bother with this, I can't do this justice," and tosses out the whole docket. The whole docket goes out the window. When that happens, it means all those people who parked their cars without regard to the law don't pay their fines to the municipalities. The revenue of those municipalities is hurt, because they don't get the revenue from the fines that would otherwise be levied.

1710

Again, that's a problem that was created under the Liberal access-to-justice regime. It's a problem the current New Democratic regime continues. I warn the New Democratic government that if you follow in the Liberal footsteps you don't believe in access to justice, and you're doing just that.

The bill before us is the bill dealing with class actions. As I said earlier, it's a good bill. It is a Liberal bill, but it was not created by the Liberals. They didn't ram the provisions of that bill down anybody's throat as the New Democratic government has been wont to do with its legislation, but they set up a collaborative effort. I will give credit where credit is due, and credit is due to the former Attorney General in terms of these pieces of legislation.

I don't understand why this government is reluctant to see these two bills become law. After second reading, everybody is standing up and saying: "These bills are worthy of becoming law. We have no amendments to propose. These bills should become law now. The legal community and consumers are waiting for these bills to become law."

What did the government do after second reading? It sent these bills to committee. Nobody wanted the bills to go to committee, but the bills went to committee. We had about two hours of committee hearings. We didn't even bother going through the bills in a clause-by-clause way. We had submissions from two groups who didn't add anything new to the bills. Then the bills were sent back here. They could have become law in December. They could have been easily passed and proclaimed, but for some reason the government does not want these bills to become law.

I must say I agree with the member for Ottawa West. I was shocked when I saw the Attorney General coming here today, presenting these bills for third reading but telling us: "There's more work yet to be done on them. They're not ready to become law. We have to go through a period of legal education. We have to go through a period of getting the regulations in order."

I don't know what has been going on since this bill was presented for first reading. I believe that was in December 1990. I don't know what's been going on since then. I do know there have been seminars put on for the purpose of legal education. I know the Attorney General has been invited to those seminars and has in fact been the keynote

speaker at many of them. I don't know why we are now going to see these bills complete third reading and why they are going to be put back on the shelf. It just doesn't make sense.

My friend the member for Ottawa West talked about conspiracy; he talked about a hidden agenda. I'm not going to make those allegations, but I just don't know why the bills are not going to become law immediately. I hope the parliamentary assistant will rise in his place today and tell us what's been going on for 18 months, why the period of organization has not been completed and why the implementation of this bill is going to be delayed yet again.

It was interesting that a little while ago the Minister of Transportation made the allegation that we were delaying. I can see from a government point of view why people would believe we might be delaying certain pieces of legislation, but this is not one of those pieces of legislation. We have asked repeatedly for this legislation to become law. I don't know why it's going to be delayed again.

I notice members asking me to sit down because they've heard enough about this. I hope that when I do sit down some of them will get up to extol the virtues of this legislation so we can see that some of them actually read it before they came into the Legislature today. I hope some of them who represent the government and in fact are proposing this legislation will ask the question, "Why are we not implementing it right away?" I hope the parliamentary assistant will answer that question. I hope we can walk away from here at the conclusion of this debate and know why this is not going to become law immediately. I would like to know why it didn't become law last December.

We've seen the way this government reacts to some of its own pieces of legislation. I remember the SCOE—support and custody orders enforcement—bill that we had before this Legislature about a year ago. I remember the Premier admonishing the member for York Centre about delaying the SCOE bill because we had so much to say about it in committee and because we had so many of our own amendments to propose. I remember the Premier admonishing the member for York Centre for delaying the bill. Then the bill became law and, lo and behold, what happened? They didn't implement the bill for six more months. Why didn't they do that? I don't know, but in the meantime the budget for the SCOE office was reduced and people who had to administer the SCOE provisions were laid off or moved to other departments.

What was the net effect of that? We had a six-month delay caused by the government for no reason and in place of implementing the bill, after it reduced its budget for financial considerations and to show constraint, it went ahead and had a \$1-million advertising campaign to tell people about SCOE. It had absolutely no impact whatsoever on the implementation of the bill or on the success the bill is or is not having. They delayed the bill six months, spent \$1 million, wasted \$1 million of the taxpayers' money and then blamed us, the opposition, who tried to make the bill better, for proposing amendments.

I can see the same thing happening right here. I can see a \$1-million publicity campaign looming on the horizon to extol the virtues of a bill that they're not even going to

implement. I am starting to wonder whether this bill will ever be proclaimed. I have my real doubts as to whether this bill will ever see the light of day. I think the government would be remiss if it delayed this bill any longer, because the citizens of this province are waiting for this bill. They want this bill because it's going to make—

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): It will put the lawyers' rates up, that's why.

Mr Harnick: Now I have a member telling me it's the lawyers who want the bill. That is somewhat of an irony, to have someone who is a member of the government that's proposing this piece of legislation saying they're not going to implement it because it's the lawyers. I hope the member—let me see if I can find his riding—for Chatham-Kent will stand up in his place after I've completed my remarks and tell us whether this bill, which his own government is proposing, is going to be implemented. I really have to wonder, when I stand here in support of their bill and I listen—

1720

Mr Offer: It's our bill.

Mr Harnick: I'm sorry, I stand corrected—when I stand here in support of the Liberal bill proposed by the New Democratic government and hear criticisms from the government members proposing this very bill. I don't think the members of this government have any clue what's going on here today. I don't think they have any clue that everybody speaking about this bill is speaking in favour of it. For goodness' sake, believe me, everybody's in favour of this bill. Pass it, make it law, proclaim it now. I don't know what you're waiting for.

Mr Perruzza: Shut up and we'll do it.

Mr Harnick: The member for Downsview tells me to shut up, sit down and they'll do it. Unfortunately, the member for Downsview is buried so far back in the back benches of his party that he has—

Interjection: In the gallery.

Mr Harnick: He's almost in the gallery, that's right, and unfortunately he has absolutely no influence at all with the Attorney General to ask for this bill to become law.

I think I am going to sit down very shortly because I am very anxious to hear the member for Chatham-Kent, the member for Yorkview and the member for Downsview stand and speak eloquently about this bill, not about any character flaws I might have, the member for Ottawa West or the member for Etobicoke West may have.

I think it's high time we had the members of the government stand up and tell us why Bill 28 and Bill 29 are worthy of our support. I think it's high time that they showed they've read their bill and that they're here to debate it, because they don't even understand that the opposition comes here today and speaks in support of this legislation. They don't understand that. They think this is just an exercise to come out and assassinate one another's character. That's why they're always going to remain buried deep in the back benches.

I hope they will stand and speak eloquently about these bills because the bills are good for consumers. They're

going to be good bills for the legal system. They will eliminate certain extra cases the court load can't accommodate, they will make the prosecution of certain civil actions easier and facilitate the implementation of an environmental bill of rights.

I think it would be interesting to hear the member for Yorkview stand in his place and tell us why the threshold in this bill to permit a class action is at the right level and why it would help consumers. I think I would be very indebted to the member for Yorkview, the member for Downsview, the member for Chatham-Kent and the member for Durham West, who stand and shout insults, when they're standing to support their very own piece of legislation.

I think it would be interesting to hear them speak about the threshold in this bill and about the method of collaboration that created this bill. I think it would be very interesting for the member for Yorkview and the member for Downsview to talk about the cost implications this bill sets forth.

I'm pleased to stand in support of the former Attorney General's legislation and I'm very interested in listening to those members buried so deeply in the back benches do more than assassinate one's character. I would very much like to hear them talk about some of the sections in this bill and tell us why they will benefit the citizens of Ontario.

I certainly will support this bill, because it's a good thing for the people of Willowdale. It's a good bill for the people of Willowdale because it will provide them with access to justice. It will provide them with the opportunity, when the need arises, to seek access to justice at the cheapest possible cost. It will provide my constituents with timely access to justice. They won't end up on court lists that will wait for ever and ever and ever to be reached because the government has spent all its money trying to rectify the Askov decision problem created by the former Liberal government.

That's why this bill is going to be good for my constituents. This bill provides cost provisions that will help finance a lawsuit for my constituents if they become part of a class that's involved in a lawsuit. This bill will help defray the costs of the financial disbursements needed to be expended to carry on a lawsuit, and that will be good for my constituents. This bill, in a very limited form, will provide for contingency fees. I believe in contingency fees. I served on a committee of the Canadian Bar Association that recommended the implementation of contingency fees—

Hon Mr Pouliot: Yes, you would. It has been more than that, Charles.

Mr Harnick: —after a great deal of study, and this bill that the Minister of Transportation is now shouting across the floor about that contains a provision for contingency fees is going to be beneficial to my constituents because of that section I'm now referring to, in spite of what the Minister of Transportation says in a derogatory manner about his own piece of legislation. He too, even though he's a cabinet minister, obviously doesn't understand that the opposition stands here today in support of

the very legislation proposed by his Attorney General. He doesn't understand that either, and I'm somewhat chagrined about that.

I would be remiss if I didn't make some comment about one other area before sitting down. Here we are on the eve of hopefully having this bill passed and becoming law and being proclaimed, and this is a very significant bill for the people of Willowdale, for my constituents, in terms of access to justice. But this government that says it believes in access to justice is considering, I understand, the implementation of a services tax on lawyers' fees. I understand that these people who rail against the GST are considering extending a services tax on to lawyers' fees. On the one hand, that may be the way they plan to finance and fund legal aid in the province. I applaud the government if it intends to continue the Ontario legal aid plan. However, I'm not so sure that implementing a sales tax, a services tax on legal fees, is going to enhance access to justice.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member for Willowdale is attempting to address this House on important issues, and members of the government seem to be carrying on private conversations. That certainly is contrary to order.

Mr Bisson: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I just wanted to say the same could be said about the opposition.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Let's go on with the debate. The member for Downsview.

Mr Perruzza: On that point of order, Mr Speaker, this is a very important matter, but, if you'll note, in his benches there are no Liberals except for three in the House today. Where have all the Liberals gone, the 32 other members?

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member for Willowdale, you have the floor.

1730

Mr Harnick: I might say I'm indebted to my caucus colleagues, who are here in some number to listen to this speech on two very important bills. I know it would be improper for me to name those who are and are not here and I'm not going to do that, but let me get back to this very important issue about access to justice.

This government that rails against the goods and services tax I understand is close to implementing a service tax on legal fees. I understand that their brothers and sisters in British Columbia, the socialist government that's been elected in British Columbia, have already made the decision to implement such a tax. I know the brothers and sisters in this Legislature cannot be far behind.

If the government goes ahead and imposes a service tax on legal fees it will be giving access to justice in the form of Bills 28 and 29 and taking it away with the implementation of a services tax on legal services, because those individuals who have to pay for their legal services, who don't qualify for legal aid, are going to see their legal fees increase by the percentage the government imposes by way of a services tax on legal fees. This will create a situation whereby their access to justice will be limited. So when they receive bills like Bills 28 and 29 that provide them with enhanced access to justice, the shame of it is

that any benefits they receive are taken away when the services tax, the tax they railed so hard against, is imposed on services in Ontario.

I am about to conclude my remarks. As I said earlier, I am very anxious to hear the members of the government tell me why they approve of this legislation, because you'd never have known it by their comments as I and the member for Ottawa West spoke. I implore the government to implement this legislation. Let's pass it now, let's make it law, let's proclaim it and let's let it start to act to help the citizens of Ontario. The worst thing they could do in terms of this piece of legislation and access to justice would be to put it on the shelf for another six months and hope that it goes away.

I don't know why the government is proceeding in this manner. I don't know why it's taken almost two years to get these bills to the point where they're receiving third reading and are about to be passed. I don't know why the government is going to delay proclamation of these bills into law. I hope the parliamentary assistant, the member for Downsview, the member for Yorkview and perhaps even the Minister of Transportation will stand today to tell me why this is happening, why the good legislation they've adopted from the former Attorney General is being delayed. I am very anxious to find answers to those questions and I know some of those individuals I just named will be on their feet to provide those answers to the people of Ontario.

It's been a privilege to be able to rise and speak about Bill 28 and Bill 29. They are bills that I and my caucus will support. They are bills that we indicated our support for almost two years ago. They are bills that should've become law almost two years ago. If there's going to be any further delay, I implore the members I've just indicated who are here listening to this debate to tell me and the people of Ontario why this good and important piece of legislation that provides access to justice is being delayed yet again.

Mr Mammoliti: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I want a share a thought with everybody in the Legislature tonight. Today marks a very special day for me, and my family for that matter. I would like to wish my daughter, Nicole Anna, a happy birthday. She's three years old. Nicole, happy birthday.

The Deputy Speaker: This is not a point of order.

Mr Callahan: I would like to comment on the statements made by the member for Willowdale. I concur with him that the very far-reaching and very innovative measure that was instituted by the former Attorney General of the Liberal government is one that should be supported.

Both Bills 28 and 29 are bills that are going to bring true justice to those people out there in society who perhaps are not in the higher echelons who, along with 100 other Ontario citizens, find they've got a car that is in bad shape or that has some problem with it, or some other similar type of situation where they're going to be able to commence an action as a class.

In the past—to make it very clear to the people who are watching this program—in fact, prior to this legislation being introduced by the former Liberal government a person had to bring his or her own action, which meant it was very costly, as my friend the member for Willowdale has said. It also delayed justice being served to these people.

In fact, what we've got is two bills: a bill that will now allow class actions to be brought and also a bill which will allow people who are impoverished, who heretofore had been denied access to the courts because they simply did not have the financial backing to be able to take the same advantages as those people who were perhaps a bit more advantaged in Ontario, to seek access and remedy from the courts.

I think it sends a clear message as well to people who are going to be dealing with the public that you no longer have that sort of shield of impenetrability that says that because people are poor or because people are in large numbers you can produce a product that's bad and get away with it because no one will sue you except the rich.

Mr Perruzza: I'd like to take the member up on his challenge and address this issue. You and I know that I have two minutes and you're watching the clock, so I'm watching the clock as well. The debates in this House aren't quite as liberal and free as the member would make it seem. There are 74 members here. If we were all to speak to every piece of legislation that comes through they would never pass this House.

This legislation was introduced in the fall sitting, and if we had gotten cooperation from both the Liberals and the Conservatives in this House it could have been law a long time ago. We wouldn't have had to wait until today to debate it. He's goading us to prolong the debate on this very much needed, very much wanted and very much desired legislation which all three parties seem to be in agreement on. He has indicated that he is going to be in support and his party's going to be in support, and the Liberals have indicated they're also going to be in support of this legislation.

I'd like to touch very quickly on the other points that the member for somewhere in North York addressed. I don't have the piece of paper that says where he's from, but he's certainly not from my neck of the woods. He talks about the back benches. It's better to be on the fourth bench on this side of the House than to be sitting on the second bench on that side. It's the Premier's prerogative where members of this House sit and what responsibilities they take. Not all 74 members can be in cabinet, as he shall find out some day—rather, as he thinks he shall find out some day.

Closed-door consultation: There's no government in the history of Ontario that has used an open-door policy with respect to the preparation of legislation and in consulting extensively with its public. Criticisms will always be levelled about politicians not consulting, but he well knows that this party has always consulted and will always continue to consult. I hope he shuts up so that we can pass the legislation.

Mr Offer: I would like to use the couple of minutes available to comment on the bill and on some of the comments that have been made. I think it's important for us to remind especially the member for Downsview that as I read it, the bill was first introduced December 17, 1990, there was a second reading November 18, 1991, and here we are in 1992.

The concern of members on the opposition side is that the bill is not going to be proclaimed in force. This bill is the subject matter and has been the subject matter, starting with the previous government, of consultation—not invitation, but consultation. It is a product of a great many people talking about how this issue should be addressed.

1740

This issue is not about lawyers; this issue is not about courtrooms or any other thing government members might want to pull out. This issue is about people and how people may most effectively address the issues that confront them in a thoughtful, expeditious and economical way.

This issue is about people and their rights. The concern on this side is that, notwithstanding our best interests, the government will refuse and continues to refuse to make this bill operative law. The words of the Attorney General today were to that effect. The people of the province have been shut out by the actions of the Attorney General.

Mr Stockwell: It is typical that we have the government side rising to defend this piece of legislation and not one member rose and actually spoke about the legislation. What we would like to know is why is this good? Why do they accept it? One member wished his daughter a happy birthday and another member railed on about sitting in the fourth bench as opposed to the second.

The question and the point of this process is that we debate legislation. We ask you, on its merits, whether it is acceptable to your standards. The defence we have is a measurement of where someone sits in the House and whose birthday it happens to be. Not once in the summation did any member on the opposite side mention Bills 28 or 29. Not once did they refer to the legislation.

We have had two speeches, two dissertations from each caucus outlining their concerns, their role, what they consider to be good legislation and the bad parts of it, and what we receive from the government side is personal insults and happy birthday greetings.

If it seems frustrating from this side of the House, it's because legislation that is brought forward—and ultimately I wouldn't want to think that the member would mislead the public out there, but the member for Downsview suggested that this side of the House held up this legislation. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the member for Downsview would know if he checked the record: his government insisted on taking this to committee, not the opposition benches. That's what dragged out the legislation so long. If you wanted it passed sooner you could've got it passed sooner if you hadn't insisted on a committee hearing, which was never a necessity on this side of the House. This is the kind of socialist pap we listen to day in and day out, and sometimes we get frustrated and fed up.

Mr Harnick: I am going to reiterate some of the remarks of my colleague the member for Etobicoke West. It's regrettable that no one on the government side takes this legislation seriously. It's regrettable that no one on the government side of the House recognizes that this will be one of the very few pieces of legislation this government has implemented or intends to implement that will honestly benefit their constituents. Not one person on the government side of the House has been able to stand here and tell us with any authority or intelligence why this particular piece of legislation has been hanging around for two years with unanimous support of all parties in the Legislature and why it still has not become law.

All we get are birthday greetings. Quite honestly, I hope my friend the member for Yorkview's daughter does have a happy birthday, but that's not why we're here this afternoon. We're here to debate a very significant piece of legislation and I wish the member for Yorkview had used his time to tell us why the government plans to put this legislation on the shelf for another six months.

The other interesting thing was to hear the member for Downsview say that he can't debate these issues because there are 74 members who sit on the government side and he says in terms of their involvement that they can't be as liberal with the debates. I'm very disappointed to hear that on your side of the House you don't have the opportunity to stand and speak in support of your own legislation. I think that's very regrettable.

The Deputy Speaker: Were there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr David Winninger (London South): Yes. As the members across the House will recall, this is the first time a government member has actually participated in the debate as opposed to joining in a two-minute response to members on the opposite side of the House.

The member for Ottawa West and the member for Willowdale, both being conscientious members of the House and former practising lawyers, one still practising, I believe, have expressed their genuine concern about the timeliness of implementation of this legislation.

As both these members will know, this legislation is extremely innovative and it's extremely complex, and it does indeed amplify access to justice on the part of the people of Ontario. The people need to be mindful that instead of having a multiplicity of individual proceedings before the court, through the class proceedings mechanism a representative action may be brought. This reduces the amount of costs involved, but to defray the costs of proceeding on a class proceeding basis, Bill 29 establishes a fund to do just that.

This legislation, as both the members know, was worked out and fine-tuned in consultation with the law society, the Canadian Bar Association and the Advocates' Society, and it represents, I would submit, a very finely tuned piece of legislation.

In fact, the Attorney General's advisory committee—the former Attorney General, the member for St George-St David—recommended that there be further consultation with the law society and other interested parties and that

there be further and detailed consultation on the implementation of the class proceedings fund in order to develop a structure, the administration and procedures for the fund; in order to establish the necessary rule changes, because as the members opposite will recall, the rules of court apply to class proceedings; in order to introduce and amend the necessary rules; in order to introduce the necessary forms; in order to deal with issues surrounding the retainer of barristers and solicitors in class proceedings, and in order to deal with questions of ethics involving lawyers in class proceedings. All of the issues the Attorney General addressed earlier in making his statement on class proceedings have to be addressed in order to implement this legislation.

The member for Willowdale indicated that the Attorney General had not indicated the true significance of this bill, yet in his statement on third reading the Attorney General said, "This is a significant step forward in our collective effort to ensure that the residents of Ontario have access to justice through the most modern, the most efficient and affordable means available."

This is a great stride forward, and we want to do it right. It may be said that the wheels of justice grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine. I would suggest to the members opposite, who complain about the time involved, that obviously our predecessor government, the Liberal government, wanted to take the time to do it right, and that's why this legislation was not proclaimed prior to the election.

Now you are hearing this government present the bill for third reading. The Attorney General has reiterated the importance of this legislation going forward. While I appreciate the comments of the members opposite in the House, they do need to acknowledge the necessary consultation in order to implement this legislation properly. Once implemented, the members of the practising bar in Ontario, the judiciary with whom we're consulting, and certainly the public at large will appreciate the efforts we have made.

1750

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I wonder if the member for London South might find this an appropriate point to adjourn the debate. I understand the Lieutenant Governor is awaiting to give royal assent.

Mr Winninger: I would be more than pleased to conclude my remarks at this time.

On motion by Mr Winninger, the debate was adjourned.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT
SANCTION ROYALE

Hon Henry N. R. Jackman (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed a certain bill to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): The following is the title of the bill to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act / Loi concernant la gestion des déchets dans la région du grand Toronto et modifiant la Loi sur la protection de l'environnement.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to this bill.

Au nom de Sa Majesté, Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur sanctionne ce projet de loi.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House adjourned at 1757.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative, vice-président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative,
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative,
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des Comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
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Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
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Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
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Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
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St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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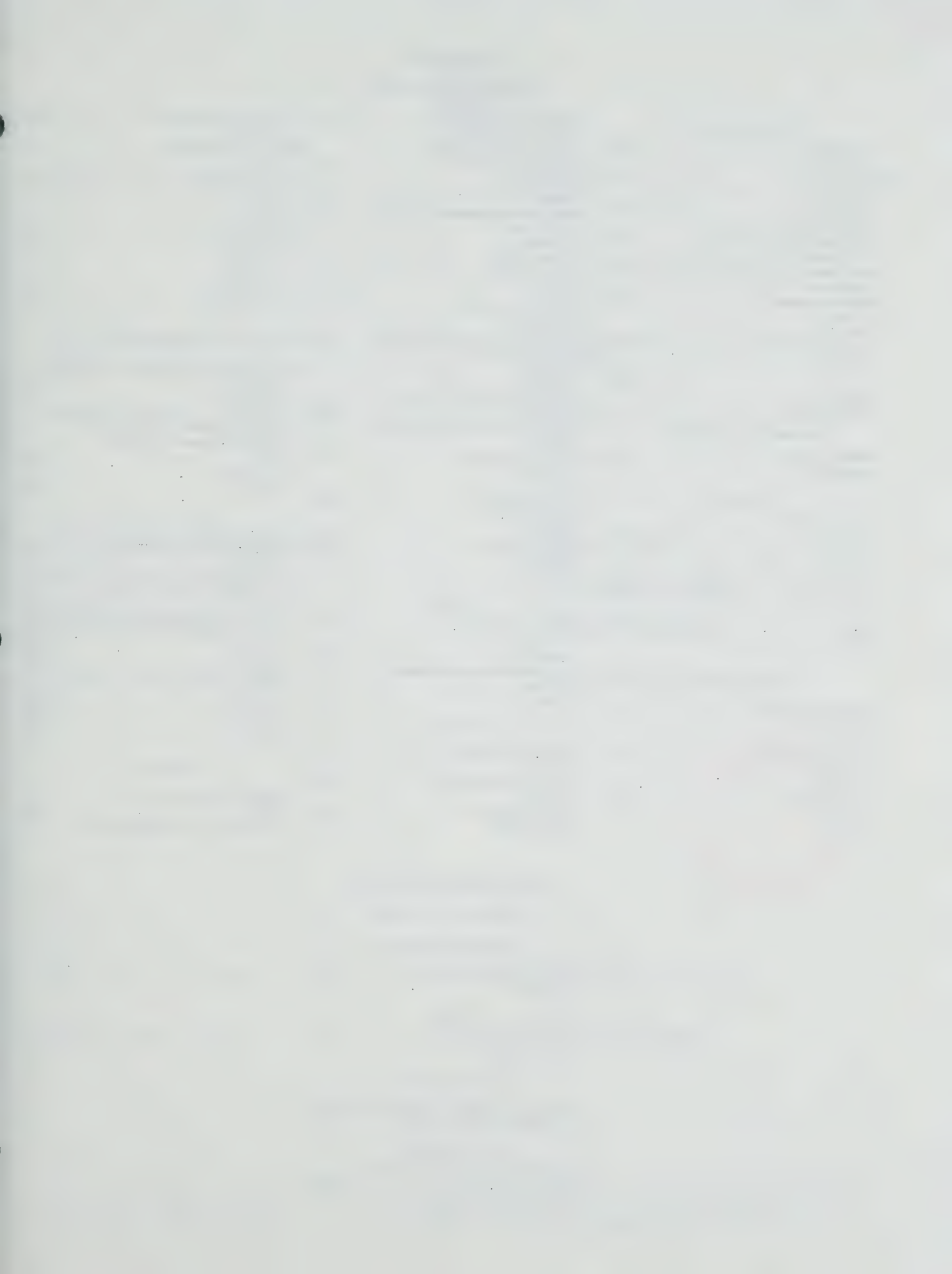
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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
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Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth



CONTENTS

Monday 27 April 1992

Members' statements	Labour legislation 364	French-language services 370
Donald Butt 357	Mr Harris	Mr O'Neil
Mrs Marland	Mr Rae	Revenue from gaming 370
Science Fair 357	Mining industry 364	Mr Tilson
Ms Murdock	Mr Miclash	Labour legislation 371
Child care 357	Miss Martel	Mrs Witmer
Mrs O'Neill	Road maintenance and construction ... 365	Taxation 371
York Technology Association 358	Mr Turnbull	Mr Chiarelli
Mr Cousens	Mr Pouliot	Rent regulation 371
Local employment assistance program .. 358	Hospital services 366	Mrs O'Neill
Mr Owens	Mr Mammoliti	Ms Poole
Teachers' dispute 358	Ms Lankin	Game and fish bill 371
Mr Beer	Government spending 366	Mr Runciman
Mr Sterling	Mrs Caplan	
Expo 98 358	Mr Wilson (Frontenac-Addington)	
Mr Perruzza	Children's services 367	
	Mr Jackson	
Visitor 359	Mrs Boyd	First readings
The Speaker	Decentralization of government	Human Rights Code Amendment Act,
	operations 367	1992, Bill 15 371
Statements by the ministry	Mr Wilson (Kingston and The Islands)	Mr Winninger
Brewing industry 359	Mr Silipo	Agreed to 371
Ms Churley	Public opinion polls 368	Cambridge District Association for
	Mr Bradley	Christian Education Act, 1992,
Responses	Mr Rae	Bill Pr9 372
Brewing industry	Labour legislation 368	Mrs Witmer
Mr Mahoney 359	Mrs Witmer	Agreed to 372
Mr Elston 359	Mr Rae	
Mr Tilson 360	Charitable gaming 369	Third readings
Mr Sterling 360	Mr Kormos	Class Proceedings Act, 1991, Bill 28 ... 372
Mr Stockwell 360	Ms Churley	Mr Hampton 372
		Mr Scott 372
Visitor 360	Motions	Mr Chiarelli 373
The Speaker	Committee substitution 369	Mr Offer 381
	Mr Cooke	Mr Stockwell 381
Oral questions	Agreed to 369	Mr Mammoliti 382
Government policy 360	Private members' public business 369	Mr Bisson 382
Mrs McLeod	Mr Cooke	Mr Harnick 382
Mr Rae	Agreed to 369	Mr Callahan 387
Education financing 361	Petitions	Mr Perruzza 388
Mrs McLeod	Education financing 369	Mr Winninger 389
Mr Silipo	Mr Beer	Adjourned 389
Loan guarantees 363	French-language services 370	Royal assent
Mr Harris	Mr Jordan	Waste Management Act, 1992,
Mr Rae	Hospital services 370	Bill 143 389
	Mr Mammoliti	His Honour the Lieutenant Governor

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

Le lundi 27 avril 1992

Déclarations des députés

Collèges de langue française 357
M. Daigeler

Pétitions:

Centres d'alphabétisation 370
M. Grandmaître

Première lecture

Loi de 1992 modifiant le Code des droits de la personne, projet de loi 15 371

Sanction royale

Loi de 1992 sur la gestion des déchets,
 projet de loi 143 389
 Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 28 April 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mardi 28 avril 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues may be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 325-7400.

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Hansard reports all debates in English or French as spoken by the participants. It does not translate remarks made in either language. Headings and tables of contents reflect language use.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 28 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

SENIORS GAMES

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I'd like to share some information with this House about an event that Mrs Margaret Marland, the member for Mississauga South, and I attended very recently. It had to do with the official opening of the Mississauga Seniors Games, which was held in Mississauga recently to celebrate Actifest, a senior citizens program in Mississauga. They participate in Actifest every two years. The purpose is to select winners who will participate in the Ontario Seniors Games, which will be held in Hamilton from August 24 to 26 this year.

Those opening ceremonies were held on April 23. I want to personally congratulate our chairman this year, Mrs Gwen Wilson, and particularly some of the wonderful senior citizens in our community, like Lucy Turnbull, Billie Cournoyer and Olga Tyne. These are ladies who really have a history in our community of being involved in these games and in other activities at the Cawthra Senior Citizens Centre. But we have a very special senior citizen who who gets angry every time I refer to her as the honorary chair of the seniors games, and that of course is our mayor, Hazel McCallion.

There are many activities, everything from darts to table tennis to cribbage to 10-pin bowling and walking—wonderful activities. I would like to congratulate everyone involved and invite you all to come out and enjoy the festivities.

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): In the midst of disheartening strikes in the broader public sector and demands for wage increases that are greater than the rate of inflation, we have one group of employees who have set a remarkable example by agreeing to sacrifice 20% of their wages and work a four-day week in order to preserve jobs.

I speak of course of the full-time staff at the Art Gallery of Ontario, who are to be commended for being part of the solution to AGO's serious financial crisis. As their union president, Sharon McGill, said, "The determination and solidarity of gallery staff in the face of this crisis is nothing short of remarkable."

Even with the employees' wage cut, a temporary measure until AGO receives notice from the province of the amount of its operating grant, the gallery will have to lay off staff if it does not receive a funding increase. AGO is running an operating deficit of \$4.5 million.

The NDP government must accept responsibility for some of AGO's financial woes. In 1990 the gallery went through a pay equity exercise as required by provincial

law. Employees in AGO's female-dominated job classes received pay equity adjustments averaging 25%. However, while AGO received onetime assistance last spring towards the huge costs of pay equity, the NDP government did not increase the AGO's base operating grant to cover the permanent increase in salary costs.

Clearly the provincial government cannot continue to mandate programs like pay equity in the broader public sector without adequate provincial funding.

VOLUNTEERS

Mr David Winninger (London South): I rise in the House today to recognize the difference each one of us can make to contribute to positive change in the world.

This past Sunday, more than 40 volunteers were recognized for helping the lives of others at Parkwood Hospital in my riding of London South. Awards were given at this celebration of volunteers, marking the beginning of National Volunteer Week. The London and Area Association of Volunteer Administration, Volunteer London and the London Free Press presented plaques to five individuals acknowledging their special volunteer efforts.

Jackie Emerson coordinates a program to train volunteer tutors of physically challenged adults. Frank Keasey, who volunteers at Fanshawe Pioneer Village, is president and regional director of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Alice Lewis volunteers at the Memorial Boys' and Girls' Club. Anna Nielsen, herself a retiree, coordinates two programs at Chelsey Park Retirement Community. Hannah Sherbrin, a nurse and graduate art therapist, applies her talents to tutoring immigrant children. Each of these individuals serves as an example of the positive difference the volunteer effort of just one person can make in the lives of so many others.

I laud the 180 agencies registered with Volunteer London and every one of the dedicated individuals who contributes freely time, talent and caring.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orion): For thousands of Armenians in Ontario, many of whom live in my riding of Orion, April 24 is a day not to be forgotten. April 24, 1915, 77 years ago, Armenian intellectuals were deported and mass killings began. Every Armenian is personally touched by the genocide which left over 1.5 million people dead.

The European Community has already officially recognized the Armenian genocide as a historical event. Canada has yet to do so. The independent state of Armenia was established six months ago and has been officially recognized by the government of Canada. Now is the time for Canada to also recognize the Armenian genocide of 1915.

In this rapidly changing world people look to Canada as a symbol of justice and respect for human rights. Recognition of the tragedy of the Armenian genocide by Canada

would serve to reinforce these important values for which our nation stands.

On behalf of my constituents, I believe this is an important statement today on this important remembrance of the Armenian community, and I thank the House for its attention.

1340

HOSPITAL FINANCING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Health the plight of those who are relying on her ministry's commitment to build a new hospital in Wiarton. The people in the area have contacted me because they do not seem to be able to get answers anywhere else.

Five years ago, the Liberal government announced that it would replace the dilapidated structure with the help of the community. The community responded with an energetic fund-raising campaign which raised the \$4 million needed from private sources, and then it waited.

In 1989 the government asked Wiarton to reassess its plans and examine its needs. It was assured that following this process it would move to the top of the list. A new planning study was completed in December 1989, and in 1990 the then Minister of Health made another announcement of \$9 million to build the facility.

The hospital has put together working drawings and a pre-construction budget and is now waiting and waiting for approval to go to tender. The community has done its part and it is confused as to why the government is not doing its part. The present building does not meet current fire codes or other safety standards and patient care is at risk.

The minister has apparently not responded to the many resolutions passed by local councils on the subject, but I would ask that she investigate this situation as quickly as possible to ensure quality health care for the people of Grey and Bruce.

MEMBER'S MAILING

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I would like to share with the House the confidence that has been unexpectedly placed in me by the leader of the third party. I just recently received in my constituency office yet another of a series of mailings from the leader of the third party addressed to me, Christel Haeck, not in my capacity as the MPP for St Catharines-Brock but as a representative of the Pro-Business Network.

As you know, Mr Speaker, we on this side of the House have been working very hard in the last few months to establish the kinds of partnerships with the business community that will assist the growth of the Ontario economy. However, you can imagine my surprise to find this effort recognized by, of all people, the leader of the third party in his linking of me with the Pro-Business Network.

In addition to a letter from the leader of the third party telling me that he values my views and my input, the mailing includes a "Leader's issues survey" in which I am asked to rank the most important issues of the day. I would be more than happy to fill out his questionnaire and send it

to him, only instead of running up his postage bill, I'll just practise what he preaches and save the taxpayers some money by hand-delivering it. The mailing also includes a hot list of publications.

Finally, while the leader of the third party talks about fiscal responsibility, I would urge him to do likewise and not to use his Queen's Park office.

MEMBERS' CONDUCT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): The people of this province are very concerned about the integrity of the NDP government, and for good reason. People are wondering: Where are Bob Rae's standards? What are Bob Rae's standards? Can we trust the word of this government?

Look at the track record. Back in November, the word of the Premier himself was called into question when it was revealed that his newsletter misled his constituents by claiming credit for extending pay equity, something the government had not done.

Then of course we have the infamous Martel case, where a minister of the crown admitted that she lied and slandered an Ontario doctor. Yet the Premier said: "That's okay. The Minister of Northern Development can remain in cabinet because she told the truth about lying."

The latest example of this government's lack of integrity has come to light in a newsletter sent out by the member for Yorkview. The member tried to justify his position on a housing project by claiming the approval for it was given by the previous Liberal government. He states: "I must inform you that approval for this project was given before I took office. I will not take the blame for something that is not my fault." This is completely false. The Finch-Ardwick project was approved by the NDP government: the date, November 29, 1991.

It's an epidemic. First the Premier, then the cabinet; now the government backbenchers feel free to play footsie with the truth whenever it suits their purpose. It has to stop.

CANADA 125 RIBBON ROUND-UP

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I would like to recognize the efforts of a group of volunteers in my community who have organized a Canada 125 event entitled Canada 125 Ribbon Round-Up.

This project, which was officially launched on March 27, is based upon the yellow ribbon campaign during the Gulf war. It is intended to serve two very important causes, Canadianism and charity.

Until the July 1 Canada Day celebrations, red and white ribbons held together by a Canadian flag pin, such as the one I am wearing now, are available for the price of a donation at several locations in Kitchener-Waterloo.

The organizers want to have the entire community wearing the red and white ribbons for Canada Day and, in the process, raise money for a very worthy cause: Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital's fund-raising campaign for its dialysis unit. They also hope people will decorate their cars, trees and front porches with red and white ribbons.

This exciting campaign will allow people in my community to show their commitment to Canada and their

pride in being a Canadian, while helping K-W Hospital provide an essential service. I want to congratulate the organizers of this campaign, Iola Lottko, Justine Arsenault and Diane Bonfonté, and extend my warmest wishes to them for the success of this very worthwhile project.

INDEPENDENCE '92

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): Independence '92, the International Congress and Exposition on Disability, recently took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, and over 3,000 disabled and non-disabled delegates attended from 90 different countries.

The exchange of information was astounding and the networking was incredible. However, some of the disabled delegates had difficulties in accessing certain workshops. There were not adequate services in some cases, but we have learned from that and I am sure we are going to see things change in the future.

The closing plenary session, Towards the Millennium, included representation from the World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, International Federation of the Hard of Hearing, World Mental Health Association, International Federation on Aging, International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicaps and Disabled People's International.

Also, we noticed that the key message of this conference was that disabled people have to be involved in decisions that impact their lives. I encourage all levels of government to get out and meet the diverse group, listen to their very diverse needs and take them into consideration and account when planning any action that will affect their lives.

I was also very proud to see that the Ontario government had taken positive action and I know that employment equity and the Advocacy Act will happen.

RESIGNATION OF FIRST DEPUTY CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I beg to inform the House that a vacancy has occurred in the office of the First Deputy Chair of the committee of the whole House by reason of the resignation of Mr Mike Farnan, the member for the electoral district of Cambridge.

1350

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

YORK CITY CENTRE

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): As minister responsible for the greater Toronto area, I rise today to bring good economic news. At a time when the government is painfully aware of the difficult circumstances brought on by the recession, I am pleased to inform the Legislature of an investment in Ontario that will create jobs and improve the urban fabric for a sizeable number of residents in the greater Toronto area. This investment represents a mark of confidence in Ontario, the greater Toronto area and the city of York.

My colleague the Minister of Transportation and I have just signed a memorandum of understanding with the city of York and Dumez Real Estate North America, a new Canadian company. Their parent company, Dumez Immobilier, is based in France. York City Centre will be their

first major investment in Canada. This agreement launches a major public-private partnership and facilitates the first phase of a new city centre for the city of York.

I'm delighted to say that the project, to be located on the southwest corner of Eglinton Avenue West and Black Creek Drive, will be much more than bricks and mortar. It will provide a new downtown focus for the city, including commercial and mixed residential uses, as well as a transportation gateway and other public uses.

York City Centre phase 1 represents a development consistent with nodal concentration, a concept at the heart of the GTA Visions process. It will provide people with an opportunity to live and work in the same community.

In addition, I'm pleased to say that a \$5-million transportation gateway will be a key component of York's new city centre. The gateway's strategic location facilitates a GO Transit station, a Toronto Transit Commission surface bus station, a kiss-and-ride and the proposed Eglinton West rapid transit line.

Construction of York City Centre phase 1 will be staged over the next 10 to 15 years and at maturity will represent an investment in Ontario of \$400 million. Upon completion, the development will have provided an equivalent of one year's employment for as many as 6,600 workers in construction and related industries. In addition, this development will accommodate 4,000 permanent jobs.

In the recent speech from the throne, the government renewed its commitment to facilitating economic growth. The York City Centre phase 1 project demonstrates this commitment. Today's success was made possible through my ministry, the Office for the Greater Toronto Area and the Ministry of Transportation. Together they worked on behalf of all provincial public interests in negotiating a fair and sound agreement with the city of York and Dumez. Indeed, the York City Centre phase 1 project is a good example of governments, both provincial and municipal, developing an effective partnership with the private sector.

This project also represents an important victory for citizen participation, and I would like to express my thanks to the citizens involved for their hard work and commitment to an open and honest public process. I would also like to acknowledge the success of the city of York, in particular Mayor Brown and the current council, in planning its new city centre, and thank Dumez Real Estate North America for its willingness to work through a difficult time with the city and the province on a development proposal that will benefit all parties.

RESPONSES

YORK CITY CENTRE

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): The announcement today by the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area is of course an important announcement, and frankly we welcome the fact that this agreement has finally been reached. I noted, however, that in congratulating the people whom she congratulated through the course of her statement, she neglected, perhaps capriciously, to mention the previous government. This proposal to develop a transportation gateway at the corner of Black Creek and Eglinton Avenue is something that had been almost completed at the time of the last election,

something that had been worked on by the ministry, by the office she's now responsible for, by the previous government, by the city of York, by a number of private concerns, and indeed by Humber College. I regret the fact that Humber College isn't mentioned here, because at one time there had been a proposal to put a site there for a community college right in the heart of the city of York.

What interests me is that the party that is now in government, which used to think those involved in the development industry, those responsible for developing land and building buildings and creating new communities in the province of Ontario—they were thought by the NDP party, while in opposition, to be about the lowest form of economic life in the province.

Now, on the road to Damascus, we have met not a Canadian developer, not an Ontario developer, but a French developer, Dumez Immobilier. Well, congratulations. I hope the minister in her office, and the Premier and the government can start to realize that within the development community indigenous to Ontario there are some entities that would like to participate in this new partnership the minister is now a champion for.

She mentions transportation. I want to remind the minister that since she has come to power, not one kilometre, not one metre of new subway has been built in the greater Toronto area; not one line has been expanded. There has been absolutely no progress at all on that score.

In her statement she mentions not a new Eglinton West rapid transit line but a proposed, perhaps a possible line. The minister ought to realize that unless she and the government she is a part of get on with building new rapid transit facilities in the greater Toronto area and directly in Metropolitan Toronto, this city and this urban area will grind to a halt. We urgently need a subway to York University, we need to work on the Eglinton line, and we need to proceed on the Sheppard line.

Finally, while I have the opportunity, I might just congratulate the minister in this case for making a public announcement. Yesterday the minister didn't believe in public announcements. Indeed, she had a press conference to announce, as I understand it, the proposed ban or phase-out of 21 toxic substances, and this was by invitation only. One wonders why the Queen's Park press gallery was not invited to that press conference.

My colleague the member for Oriole will have a few comments as well on this announcement by the minister.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): In the few minutes remaining I too would like to say this is an important initiative for the greater Toronto area and, I believe, for the province. We know the greater Toronto area has long been the engine of the economy in this province.

However, I would like to say to the minister that there are many other projects she could expedite and get under way. It has been 18 long months. This is the first significant initiative within the GTA. This is long overdue. I agree there are the kinds of projects that are ready to go that you could expedite. The loop of the Spadina and the Yonge Street lines in the North York area is critical and needed. It is mired down in studies which you could expedite. The Sheppard line proposal could move forward.

It is extremely important that this minister show some leadership and get these important transit initiatives under way if we're going to have the kind of infrastructure in the greater Toronto area that we need to lead us into the next decade.

Further, I'd say to her that these are the kinds of initiatives that would create jobs and have to happen now, especially while we are having the kinds of economic problems in the greater Toronto area in particular. I would urge her to use her office, which was created exactly for the purpose of expediting important initiatives and bringing communities and governments together, to make sure the kind of economic activity which creates jobs and prosperity in the greater Toronto area will happen. I would urge the minister to do that and to do it without delay.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Anyone who's been around Metropolitan Toronto for any length of time understands what this announcement is. This is a repackaging and rehashing of the same old stuff that has been promised over and over again. I'm surprised that the Minister of the Environment, who was on Etobicoke council, would stoop to the level of calling this a \$400-million development approval, when what we have here is a kiss-and-ride and a gateway in the city of York that might add up to \$3 million or \$4 million.

When this development was negotiated and approved, we know full well that the only development that is going to take place over the next 10 to 15 years, as they say, will be some cooperative housing. This minister talks about the Eglinton rapid transit line. I sat in meetings, and this minister knows full well that the Eglinton rapid transit line has about as much chance of being developed in this government's lifetime as this government has of being re-elected next election.

We talk about 4,000 permanent jobs. That's got to be about the most misleading number you can give to the public today: 4,000 permanent jobs on this site over some 10 to 15 years if every dollar of investment is given by this provincial government. There have been studies completed. There have been projects approved. We've had a slowdown in the planning process. We've got a bog-down at the Ontario Municipal Board. We've got government after government promising and promising development in these nodal sites within the Metropolitan Toronto region. It simply doesn't happen. Why? Because governments such as this government stand up on days such as today and make bold promises that, I will say, they have frankly no intention of fulfilling.

Four hundred million dollars will not hit the city of York. Can you imagine anybody today building commercial office space in Metropolitan Toronto? The developers would have to have rocks in their heads if they think they're going to build commercial space today and rent it out to anybody, with all the space available in Metropolitan Toronto.

Being a member of Metro council, I've heard these kinds of announcements before. I know this minister is on record, as the minister for the GTA, as supporting the Eglinton rapid transit line. I don't see any money for that. I don't see any money for any regional reconstruction of

rapid transit in Metropolitan Toronto as part of the 2011 study. All I see is empty promises: 6,600 workers will be employed in construction and related industries. With this announcement, not one nickel is approved to be spent. It will be studied to death by this government. It will be pushed off and pushed off, and eventually in 1995 some other government will be over there, and it will be standing up and promising \$400 million. The people of Metropolitan Toronto are sick of these kinds of promises because they never happen.

1400

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This announcement reminds me of the little story I heard yesterday which said that unfortunately, because of the recession and because of the Bob Rae government, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off. In fact, what we're seeing here is a small flicker of a match at the distant end of a tunnel. When you start talking about hundreds of millions of dollars and opportunity, you're really not facing up to the real truth. The fact of the matter is that we have a problem, and the problem is that the minister comes in today with great hopes and expectations of something happening. We want to see growth and we want to see this city burgeon again, but we've got to see a climate for the economy where the government gives some sense of confidence to business people to invest here.

You've finally found someone who's willing to do something; at least, they're talking. Get your whole government together and start finding ways of getting all of our province back to work again. There are people who are unemployed. Their jobs have disappeared. Their hope is going with it. Our young people can't find jobs this summer and you come in today and say you've got the answer. It's going to be 10 or 15 years out. Let's deal with today. We have some crises right here in this province and your government hasn't begun to address them. The economy is floundering. People are suffering. Let's get people back to work again. Let's not start having this kind of announcement, which doesn't mean as much as you think it does.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I would like to ask unanimous consent to make a statement, and the other parties may wish to as well, on the day of mourning for deceased workers.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous agreement? Agreed.

DAY OF MOURNING

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): This morning I took part in formal ceremonies commemorating those workers who have been killed or injured in workplace accidents or whose death can be traced to an occupational-related illness. The day of mourning is an opportunity for all of us to show solidarity and honour those who have died as a result of their daily work. The armbands we wear today are symbolic proof of that commitment, as are the flags that fly at half-mast outside this building.

Last year in Ontario, Labour ministry officials investigated 61 traumatic workplace fatalities. If you add to that

figure all those workers who died last year as a result of industrial disease, long-term workplace illnesses and injury, the total exceeds 260.

Our government today dedicates itself to the memory of those workers and reaffirms its vow to prevent any further waste of life.

I have fought most of my life for improved health and safety conditions. I also helped, along with Elie Martel, to bring that fight into this chamber, where we prodded and pushed the government of the day into treating workplace health and safety as a real issue of life and death. That's why the day of mourning must also serve as a catalyst to make us all work even harder towards improving workplace health and safety.

Our government believes there can be no compromise on worker health and safety. There is no production schedule, no shipping order or delivery urgent enough to take precedence over human life. Employers and workers must know the hazards present in their working environments, and they must guard against complacency and carelessness when confronting dangerous situations. The needless fatalities will continue until an ironclad agreement, in spirit and on paper, is reached between labour and management on the absolute value of health and safety. There has to be a will and determination to do what is right for working people.

We have made a start down that road. The amended Occupational Health and Safety Act, now in its second year, is gathering strength and beginning to foster a new health and safety culture in the province's workplaces. Some progress is being made. For the first time in living memory workplace deaths resulting from traumatic incidents declined last year, by a third. It's a turnaround that came too late for the workers we commemorate today and it's a turnaround that can evaporate just as quickly without constant care and attention to the mutual commitment. We must all make a commitment to take health and safety seriously. I will not be convinced of any genuine change until there are absolutely no more fatalities in Ontario's workplaces.

The Ministry of Labour will continue to use the powers it has to bring employers into compliance with the amended Occupational Health and Safety Act. The courts have registered a number of convictions, along with record-breaking fines, recently. The goal here is not punishment but deterrence. I am repeating today our determination to continue to seek convictions and severe fines that will have potentially wayward employers finally taking health and safety seriously.

A safe and healthy work environment is not a privilege, it's a right, and our government will continue to fight for that right and make it a reality in every Ontario workplace. I hope that one day a Minister of Labour of the province of Ontario is able to rise in this chamber and say that no workers were killed in the province during the previous year. We owe it to the workers killed in 1991, and to all those who died before them, to continue to fight for that day. I want to thank you for the opportunity to make this statement in the House.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): The day of April 28 is set aside each year as a day of mourning for persons killed or injured on the job. This date marks the day 78 years ago when the first worker safety legislation was passed in Canada. That day was a landmark in Canada, when governments began passing laws that would improve working conditions for all employees. Now workers have the right to expect Ontario's employers to provide a decent workplace. If you're injured on the job, compensation is available and rehabilitation is there to assist the worker back to work faster.

Ontario has a history of leading the way in protecting its workers, but as with many things, these protections must not only continue but indeed improve. Last year 262 fatality claims were made under the workers' compensation system; in other words, more than 200 people died on the job in 1991. If one death is one too many, then 262 are far too many. Efforts must continue to be made to improve workplace safety. We must continue our efforts in the area of hazardous substance identification on the job site and ensure, through educational initiatives, that workers and employers know about safer alternatives. We must encourage them to use them.

This is a moment to remember those workers who were hurt or lost their lives on the job. As we reflect upon these losses, we should rededicate and recommit ourselves to continue the pursuit of workplace health and safety.

1410

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): Today I join the members from the other two parties in remembering those workers who have been killed or injured on the job as a result of workplace accidents and industrial diseases. I believe it is important for us to observe this day of mourning to remember those who have tragically lost their lives or who were injured in the performance of their jobs.

Unfortunately, as has been pointed out, 262 people were killed in job-related accidents or diseases last year and many more were very seriously injured. By setting aside this day of mourning each year, it reminds us as legislators of the need to remain dedicated to the task of eliminating all workplace accidents and diseases. Creating a safe working environment requires the cooperative efforts of government, business and labour. Only by working together can we ensure that genuine progress will be made to eliminate the risk of death or injury to workers.

As legislators we have a special responsibility to help foster the spirit of cooperation and to ensure that our occupational health and safety laws and programs are effective and relevant to the modern workplace. We must always be vigilant against complacency, and constantly strive to make our laws and our programs better.

While much has been done in the past by all governments, much remains to be done. I look forward to working with all the members of this House to ensure that we protect all men and women in this province from serious death and injury in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those groups and organizations that have organized special events to mark this day. I know that in my own commu-

nity, the health and safety committee of the Waterloo Regional Labour Council has organized an event at Cambridge city hall.

As we observe a moment's silence for the working men and women who have been killed or injured in the workplace and take the time to remember their families, let us all rededicate ourselves to ensuring that such needless and tragic accidents do not occur in the future.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I would invite all members and our visitors to stand for a moment of silent reflection upon this solemn occasion.

The House observed one minute's silence.

The Speaker: Thank you. Be seated. It is time for oral questions. The member for Bruce.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Before we start the oral questions, we've been told that the Premier is here someplace. Mr Laughren is also away. Is Floyd not well? I just have to say that in a budget week, when we anticipate that the first minister and the deputy first minister are to be here to field questions, we shouldn't be asked to start question period until those two bodies or one of them comes in both breathing and able to answer some of our questions. I wonder if we might just take a brief recess until the Premier arrives. I know this is not usually done, but to be quite honest, this is a problem for us and it is a continuing difficulty.

Again, at my invitation, the Premier has appeared. I would like to thank you for inviting me to be the after-lunch speaker until the Premier could make his presence felt here. I think maybe we could now start the question period.

The Speaker: To the member's point of order, he indeed has a remarkable way of not having a point of order, yet making the effect occur.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier. Last week, the Premier will know, the Treasurer confirmed that the province of Ontario expects the transfer payments from the federal government to reach about \$7.6 billion. That's an increase, Premier, as you know, of close to 25% from the federal government this coming fiscal year. This, as you know, Premier, was the same government you called the "absconding debtors."

My question to you, Premier, is, how can you with credibility refer to the federal government as "absconding debtors" when it's in the middle of the same recession you are, yet it's able to provide transfer payments in the range of a 25% increase? That amounts to almost a \$1.5-billion increase.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): In the budget on Thursday, the Treasurer will be presenting the House with information with respect to the situation with the federal government. I'm sure the honourable member will know it was his government which expressed its very strong opposition to the cap on the Canada assistance plan and the impact that has had

in the province. The cumulative impact of that alone in the three years in which it's had an effect will be a loss of over \$3.5 billion when we take that into 1992-93.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): That didn't bother you when you were in opposition.

Hon Mr Rae: The member from St Catharines says that didn't bother me in opposition. It certainly did. It bothered all the members of the House. I would think all members of the House would be joining this government in saying that the federal government has a responsibility to join with us with respect to the cost of social assistance and the other costs of established programs financing.

In terms of what we have experienced, the reality is we have undergone a drop in the federal contribution to CAP down to 30-cent dollars on social assistance and down to 30-cent dollars with respect to higher education and medical care. In response to the very severe loss in revenue, Ontario has put in for an application under the stabilization plan, and it is those stabilization numbers to which the member is referring.

Mr Phillips: A month ago, the Premier stood up at a first ministers' meeting and said, "Further cuts are planned." That's what your statement says. The fact of the matter is that the federal government is going to increase transfer payments, according to the Treasurer, by almost 25%. That isn't further cuts, that is a 25% increase.

My supplementary question is the same as my first question. How do you call the federal government an absconding debtor, how do you say it's going to cut back transfer payments when transfer payments are going up, according to the Treasurer, by 25%?

Hon Mr Rae: First of all, with respect to the Canada assistance plan, our costs have gone up by double digits every year over the past three years, and the member knows that full well. That was the case when he was in office and that is the case today.

The federal transfers under the Canada assistance plan—and the member knows this full well—have been capped at 5%, and he knows full well the impact that is having on the province. There is no question that the share going to the province, the share coming from the federal government in relative terms has not kept up in any way, shape or form with the needs being experienced by those people on social assistance today in the province, nor with respect to higher education and medical care. At the same time, the member has to consider the fact that, under the stabilization plan, Ontario has put in for the loss of revenue we have experienced over the last year.

Mr Phillips: The thing that offends people—I hope this is not out of order—is hypocrisy. On the one hand, the federal government says, "We are going to give you a 25% increase in transfer payments." On the other hand, the Premier gets up and says in a speech: "These are tough times. We are going to give our transfer payment agencies, the hospitals, the school boards, the property taxpayers, 1%."

My question is very simple. If you can call the federal government an absconding debtor with those sorts of transfer payment announcements, what should the students in the schools, the patients and nurses in the hospitals and

the senior citizens who are going to pay property tax increases this year call the Premier of Ontario?

1420

Hon Mr Rae: I'm sure they'll—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Blackjack Bob.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Just call me Bob.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Will the Premier take his seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: I am sure I'll be called many different things in many different places, but "Bob" is just fine. But I would say to the honourable member, he cannot overlook the fact, and I am sure he wouldn't want to be overlooking the fact, that the impact of what the federal government has done with respect to the Canada assistance plan has been to deprive the taxpayers of this province of \$3.5 billion. When you add on the cuts in established programs financing in terms of the impact that has had, the net impact next year will be over \$4.5 billion. Those are facts which the member opposite cannot deny, because they are having such a serious impact on the people of this province.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Stupid answer.

The Speaker: The member for York Mills, the vocabulary in the House helps to determine the atmosphere in the House, and I would ask the member to very carefully consider temperate language.

Mr Sorbara: "Bob" is not what they are calling the Premier in my riding.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): My question as well is to the Premier, and regrettably these questions continue to revolve around the question of hypocrisy.

Later this afternoon this Legislature is going to be setting aside its regular business to engage in an emergency debate on the question of standards of conduct of ministers and parliamentary assistants in the government. This debate has been made necessary because the Premier has fundamentally breached the trust that the people of Ontario placed in him as a result of the election of September 1990.

Prior to that election, Bob Rae, as the member for York South, was the patron saint of standards. He was the member who set the standard for a very high degree of conduct on the part of cabinet ministers or anyone in whom the public trust was vested. We remember in this House his attack on Joan Smith. We remember his attack on René Fontaine. We remember his attack on Ken Keyes.

My question to the Premier is simple. I ask the Premier this: From that time when you were sitting here in opposition to the time now when you have been vested with a much higher degree of public trust, what has changed? Why is it you're not able to impose upon your ministers the standards that you insisted previous governments impose upon their ministers?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm afraid I just don't share the assumption of the member's question.

Mr Sorbara: Tell the Premier, Mr Speaker, there is something that he's missing. This charade continues to go on and on and on. This morning on a provincially broadcast radio program on the CBC Ontario network we have the spectacle of the chief government whip describing a little payoff program for MPPs.

Let me set the scene. The three participants are talking about foreign junkets. The chief government whip says as follows: "Well, the House leader has allowed me—I call it rewards," and she goes on, "and our House leader has given me a list of the different trips, so that I take a look at who's gone that little extra mile, and it's my way of rewarding them. I'm allowed to allocate these trips." She goes on to say: "But I'm also a woman, and in my former life I take care of myself. I've made a deal with most of them. 'When you go on this trip that I've sent you on, you've got to bring me back a present.'"

I ask the Premier, what in the world is going on over there? Will the Premier put an end to his little frequent flyer program that the chief government whip and the government House leader have going on, and will he notify us in the House that he has accepted the resignation of the chief government whip and the government House leader? I see that the chief government whip is laughing about this.

Hon Mr Rae: I can only conclude—and I haven't seen or heard the broadcast the member is referring to—

Mr Sorbara: I just quoted it.

Hon Mr Rae: Well, that's fine. I can only say to the honourable member that the member in question is a woman of enormous integrity and ability and has demonstrated that consistently in her parliamentary career.

Mr Sorbara: I am not questioning the integrity, yet, of the chief government whip. I am just quoting what she said about rewarding members who go the extra mile with trips. That's what she said. These are not my words; these are her words. The surprising thing is that she talks about it on a radio program. She doesn't see anything wrong with it. There's nothing wrong with rewarding the members who go the extra mile with a little trip.

Let's put this in perspective. As Leader of the Opposition, the now Premier decied any abuse of public trust. In his first throne speech he talked about a set of guidelines. He presented those guidelines to a committee. The committee considered them and we have never seen them since.

Will the Premier put an end to the frequent flyer program, I ask him again, and will he bring a set of guidelines to this House with appropriate sanctions that he and his government are willing to live by?

Hon Mr Rae: This is a question which is now being looked at across the country. The federal legislation is being re-examined and I'm sure, as that takes place across the country, it is something this Legislature will want to consider.

BUDGET

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. Tomorrow marks the first anniversary of your, your Treasurer's, your party's and your government's first disastrous budget. Taxes were up and the deficit was up to support massive government spending increases last year.

Premier, you set a course last year that was, to coin a phrase, 180 degrees in the wrong direction. There are two ways for a government to try to stimulate a recession-bound economy: One is to hike government spending and therefore hike taxes and the deficit to support that government spending, and you chose that option last year; the second way is to cut taxes to stimulate the economy to give more money to taxpayers to give more money to consumers to give more money to businesses so that they in their spending and business plans can stimulate the economy.

Premier, would you not agree with me that your direction last year was a total, unmitigated disaster that has failed miserably and that this Thursday you should be heading in the direction of cutting taxes as the way to stimulate the economy in this province?

1430

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The member, if I follow his policy correctly, would like the government of Ontario to cut taxes.

Interjection: Cut government spending.

Hon Mr Rae: The member says, "Cut government spending," but that's not the message I'm getting. With respect to hospitals and school boards and all the transfer payments, we're getting arguments that they should go up. We're getting these suggestions, and at the same time the third part of this Tory triangle is that we should cut the deficit.

I will listen carefully to the comments being made by the honourable member. I've listened carefully to the suggestions he's made in the House over the last several months, and I simply say to him that we have to do everything we can to maintain the level of services the people of this province need, we must do everything we can to create jobs and make sure as many jobs are created as is humanly possible, both through the public sector and especially in the private sector, and, finally, we have to make sure the deficit and the debt problem are kept in check and we have a handle on that. Those are the three things we're going to try to do. Those are the three things we must do in this budget. That is what I set out on January 21 when we looked at the alternatives. Those are the things we've been discussing with the people of the province and the direction the budget will and must take.

Mr Harris: The Premier talks about the statement on January 21. You said you were going to limit transfer payments to 1%, all the transfer agencies. We then had a wage settlement with the civil servants that was supposed to be limited to 1%, so you told us. The increases in welfare payments have been limited by you to 2%. Why then did you, on January 21, project your own spending in total to go up 10%, when you've said all the things—health

care, education, welfare, all the services, the wages to the civil servants—are not going up any more than 1% or 2%? Why then did you project on January 21 to hike your own spending 10%? Obviously, you'll have to hike taxes and the deficit to support that kind of spending. Why is that necessary?

Hon Mr Rae: We pointed out in the January 21 paper very clearly, and I think it was pointed out in the background paper we released on that day, that one of the elements that goes into the problem we face, perhaps the most important element, is the rise in social assistance costs in the province, which are projected to increase by a lot and which we have to do everything we can to keep under control. We keep them under control not by attacking the victims but by creating as many jobs and training opportunities as we possibly can. That is the direction we must take as a government. The statement on January 21 was intended to show the citizens of the province how serious the situation is and how we had to deal, and have to deal, as a government with the projections contained in it. That is exactly what the budget is intended to do.

Mr Harris: Premier, over the last five, six, seven years we've massively hiked the gasoline tax, we've hiked the retail sales tax and now we've driven shoppers away from Ontario, across the border. We have a new concentration tax we've brought in for Toronto and now businesses and companies are moving out of Toronto. We brought in a new payroll tax and now employers are laying off people. We've lost 200,000 jobs just since you took office. We've lost \$2 billion to cross-border shopping. We've tried the big-tax, big-spend approach for the last seven years. Would you not agree that we are far worse off today as a result of that and that now is the time to cut sales taxes, cut gas taxes, can the commercial concentration tax and allow people to get back to work in this province?

Hon Mr Rae: This is the position today of the Conservative Party. The position tomorrow will be that the deficit has to be lower, and the position on every day of the week will be that various kinds of spending have to increase. So I would only say to the honourable member that I listen carefully to his suggestions and no doubt they will be taken into account, but in order to be taken into account we have to balance as well the other considerations I have mentioned, the ways in which we have to do everything we can to create jobs and what we have to do in order to keep that deficit in check.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I have a question of the Premier as well. Mr Premier, I want to talk about opposition day and the resolution being debated here later this afternoon. I note that in the final paragraph of the resolution, new legislation is called for with respect to conflict of interest.

I want to read you one of your own quotes of July 7, 1986: "One of the things we would like to see is certainty of enforcement. That is not a problem with the guidelines; that is a problem of political will."

Mr Premier, I couldn't agree more. The last thing we need are new guidelines. What we do need is the political

will to enforce the ones we already have. Mr Premier, you cannot legislate integrity, you cannot legislate morality, but you can enforce your own guidelines. Why won't do that?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think the evidence will show that this government has carried out its responsibilities to the very best of its ability in this area, and we will continue to do so.

Mr Eves: You have in your cabinet, sir, the Minister of Northern Development, who has admitted that she has breached your guidelines twice within a six-month period of time. I want to ask you a question you asked of David Peterson on June 13, 1989:

"It is the Premier's job to determine what are the ethical standards of members of his cabinet....I want to ask the Premier: Does he understand the distinction between a conflict-of-interest law and a standard of ethical conduct which he should be requiring of his own ministers?"

Hon Mr Rae: Yes.

Mr Eves: If the Premier understands that, he doesn't seem to be doing anything about it. Most people I talk to understand that lying is a very serious offence. They understand that there are serious consequences to be paid if they lie in their day-to-day lives. They don't understand how a cabinet minister in your government doesn't seem to have to live by the same rules and the same standards they do in their day-to-day lives. I think we have to get to the heart of this matter. What is the real story and what is the real reason Shelley Martel is still in your cabinet today?

Hon Mr Rae: You know, this is the same member who was among those who were pushing the hardest in December for a committee. This government agreed to such a committee. We had a very extensive discussion, and at the end of all that discussion we know exactly now what we knew back in December. We also know there's no hidden agenda. To quote the words of other members, there's no smoking gun: That's what we know. That's what the committee found and that was the clear view of the members of that committee.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia): In the absence of the minister of government waste, I'd like to ask my question of the Premier. Yesterday, Mr Premier, in this House, your minister acknowledged that the taxpayers are paying \$1.9 million for frivolous renovation costs. In fact, he is quoted in Hansard as saying the approximate cost was "only" \$1.9 million.

What makes this expenditure even more appalling is that yesterday the minister of government waste did not give us the whole story. He failed to include in his figures the cost of moving several hundred Ministry of Natural Resources officials out of the Whitney Block. He forgot to mention that the relocation of these employees cost the taxpayers well over a million dollars and included an \$800,000 lease, plus \$84,000 more to move this staff and yet undisclosed expenses for moving the library.

I would ask the Premier if he will stand today and justify the judgement and the decision of his minister of government waste.

1440

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The member will well know—I'm sure she does—that the Whitney Block, as it is known, the building across the way, was transferred to the precinct of the Legislative Assembly in terms of that portion of it. The building has required renovation for many years with respect to upgrading, telecommunications and modernizing the building. She will know that as we speak, there are parts of the building that cannot be used and are not being used. This is a building which has been in place for many decades. There was a renovation of part of the building in order to accommodate a shift from here. Again, these are plans that have been under way for many years with respect to the long-term use of this building and of the building across the way. She will also know that the process has been under way for some time in terms of its planning and implementation.

Mrs Caplan: In supplementary, I would say to the Premier that the taxpayers of this province have a right to know how the NDP government sets its priorities and decides to spend the taxpayers' money. In this House, what makes this particular issue so bizarre, I would say to the Premier, is that the officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources who have been moved to North York will be moving again within two years to Peterborough. Two moves in two years is an enormous waste of taxpayers' dollars. Will the Premier intervene to stop this ridiculous game of musical chairs and save the taxpayers' money and get his minister of government waste in check?

Hon Mr Rae: The Minister of Government Services has a responsibility with respect to carrying out the moves which are taking place. If the member is saying that at no time should any government building ever be renovated, if she is saying that at no time should any government building ever be provided with more modern equipment, if she is saying that we should not be tendering these contracts on a competitive basis, if she is saying that we should leave buildings vacant for years on end, if she is saying that we should leave buildings in a state in which they can't be used for years on end, let her stand in her place and say it.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): It would be appreciated if all members would make reference to ministers of the crown by the appropriate title that has been designated by the Legislative Assembly and not designated by any particular members of the House.

ETOBICOKE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the Premier. If you read the recent decision by the Ontario Municipal Board on the motel strip in the city of Etobicoke—that I'm sure your Minister of the Environment is just filling you in on right now—it was outlined in that OMB report that there was a serious concern about

provincial meddling in the OMB process and the planning process in the city of Etobicoke.

Mr Premier, they cited one letter sent by the minister to the constituents in south Etobicoke. The Minister of the Environment has been fighting this development for some 25 years and sent a letter about the OMB hearing to her constituents that said:

"Dear Friends: As a cabinet minister, I cannot comment on issues that will come before judiciary-like hearings such as those of the Ontario Municipal Board. This is particularly true in the case of the motel strip because provincial interest has been declared in the area. This means that the provincial cabinet, of which I am a member, will have the final say on what happens to this land."

Mr Premier, several parties and area residents who appeared before that hearing referred to exhibit 53, which was this letter, and voiced the concern that the board hearing was redundant in view of the statements by the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. Mr Premier, do you consider that meddling? A lot of people in south Etobicoke think it's meddling.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'll refer that to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader): I am sure the member for Etobicoke West understands that the process that is used under the Planning Act in Ontario is that if a provincial interest is declared under the Planning Act—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Ottawa West.

Hon Mr Cooke: I am sure the member understands the process, that under the Planning Act the provincial government has the ability to declare a provincial interest and that provincial interest was declared by the previous government. Then the entire matter was discussed. A proposal was put forward by the city of Etobicoke. The matter went to the Ontario Municipal Board. The OMB has now made a decision and there are now a few more steps to be carried out under the Planning Act whereby the government, the cabinet, gets an opportunity to review the Ontario Municipal Board decision. When that happens and a final decision is made, the decision will be made public.

Mr Stockwell: With all due respect to the minister and the Premier, I don't need a lecture on how the OMB works. I know how the OMB works.

The question is this: Residents, people who appeared before this hearing, read in this letter that the minister said to her constituents, "What is implied in here is if the decision doesn't go the way I like it we'll change it in cabinet." Now, if that isn't usurping a judiciary board, I don't know what is. I'll read it very clearly for the Premier because he doesn't seem to agree. It says, "This means the provincial cabinet, of which I am a member, will have the final say on what happens to this land." She has been categorically opposed to this development for 25 years.

The legal counsel there thought it was meddling. The OMB has suggested it was meddling. The constituents

think it was meddling. When are you going to tell this House that you consider this meddling infringing on your responsibilities and retract this kind of action that that minister makes and certainly, if not ask her to resign, reprimand somebody for this kind of meddling in a judiciary process?

Hon Mr Cooke: It may be difficult for the member to understand, but the letter that he just read says exactly what I said in my first answer to his first question. Under the Planning Act, when a provincial interest has been declared, the provincial cabinet makes the final decision and that's what the letter said.

GREY WATER

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): My question is to the Minister of the Environment. I have a question concerning grey water. As you know, my riding has many marinas and cottages, as do the ridings of many of the members within the legislative precinct. While most groups are concerned about grey water, I have received comments from marina operators and boating enthusiasts alike suggesting that boaters are being unfairly targeted in our efforts towards improving water quality. Can the minister tell us what the outcome of the public comment period on the draft grey water regulation is?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I know that certainly in the member's riding both cottagers and boaters alike—as are cottagers and boaters all across this province—are very concerned about water quality and have expressed great interest in the announcement from my ministry, some year and three months ago, that we would begin to look at the discharge of grey water from boats.

The response to the public consultation was overwhelming: about 2,500 letters and comments. The vast majority of them felt, as the member said, that to require boaters to retrofit their boats to accommodate a tank for grey water was unfairly targeting the owners of existing boats and might render many of those boats unsafe. Therefore, we have taken those comments and those suggestions from the public very seriously, and have accepted at face value their request and desire to work with the ministry on an education program and to look at a number of other ways in which the boating industry and boaters can affect the environment, and ways in which we can work together to make sure the waterways and the rivers of this province remain unfouled.

1450

Mr Waters: I'll be speaking to the boaters in my area regarding the need to work together towards improving water quality in our lakes. Most people recognize the need for more than just education. Can the minister tell us what kind of regulations she will be proposing?

Hon Mrs Grier: I'm glad to do that. I will be drafting regulations that will require charter boats and boats that are defined as live-aboards—boats which are moored at one marina throughout the winter months with somebody living on them—to contain their grey water. We will be working with marina operators to increase the number of

pump-outs that exist. We will certainly be working in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to make sure we have across the province a network of facilities so that boaters, like any other person in this province who wants very much to keep our waterways clean, can play their part in making sure that is what is achieved.

ARTS AND CULTURE FUNDING

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): As I toiled in my constituency office on Sunday night, pondering the inability of the government to provide more than 1% for capital grants for schools in my riding, I received a letter from a constituent which contained a rather interesting report that had appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on April 11. I should hasten to add that these people were kind enough to tell me the following, in explanation of the enclosure: "This is not coming from an anti-union household. My husband is an unemployed trade unionist making \$9 an hour waiting for his callback."

This is for the Premier: We know your government is interested in getting the voters of Ontario to sing the praises of this government, but with one of its most recent grants, the Minister of Culture and Communications has taken this goal to ludicrous extremes. Recently the Ontario Arts Council gave the Canadian Auto Workers money to teach auto workers to sing union solidarity songs to "build a core of CAW musical activists who will be able to stimulate the musical traditions of our union."

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Callahan: I should perhaps sing it, Premier, but I won't.

Premier, given the acute economic crisis in this province, why did your Minister of Culture and Communications okay such a ridiculous grant to the CAW?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will refer this question to the minister.

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): The Ontario Arts Council is an arm's-length agency of my ministry and it looks after grants to all artists and not-for-profit organizations. We don't discriminate against anyone.

Mr Callahan: I find that absolutely unbelievable. The Premier himself will know that yesterday I put in his hands a request to the Ministry of Culture and Communications for funding for a radio group that entertains Atlantic Canadians, and it got nothing. Also, the government is slashing its spending in order to meet its budget targets. But the NDP government goes about it the wrong way. Instead of dropping frivolous programs such as that, the government's keeping these dogs alive at the expense of more important programs.

One example is that in 1991 the government cut what it gives to the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling to save \$58,000. The government said, "Economic reasons forced this move." Now, with the government ready to okay gambling casinos, it looks like Ontario will need this foundation even more than ever. Has the minister no sense

of shame? How could the government cut the money it gives to the compulsive gambling program in order to give the Canadian Auto Workers money for singing lessons?

Hon Mrs Haslam: I can only reiterate that it is a government agency and an arm's-length agency. I have been asked by certain members in the House to take a kind look at individual and particular programs in their own ridings, and I say to them, "You can put the application in." It sits in there with a list of other ones. I do not say which ones get money and which ones don't. There are criteria that must be followed. I do not play favourites and neither does the Ontario Arts Council.

The money that is given out helps the artists of this province. It helps everyone have—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. New question, the member for S-D-G & East Grenville.

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): To the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Minister, you've acknowledged the quality of the wine that's produced here in Ontario by our grape growers and our wineries. Those same growers and Ontario wineries, together with the tourist industry, the restaurant industry and the restaurant workers, have all said that high taxes on wine are causing them great, great concern. Minister, what proposals are you looking at to lessen the tax burden and to promote more jobs in tourism and in the wine industry of Ontario?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I personally have no plans for taxes one way or the other; that should be addressed to the Treasurer. However, it gives me the opportunity to say that in fact the wine industry of Ontario is one of our big success stories that we should be very proud of. It's done very, very well, just over the past year, and I'm happy to say that our government was involved in the campaign and contributed to the success of that campaign. I don't think that out of the whole situation he is describing, that is one of the industries that is hurting right now. We'll do everything we can, of course, to continue to assist that industry, but we should be very proud of how well it's done.

Mr Villeneuve: I can assure the minister that I'm very proud of the Ontario wine industry, and well should all Ontarians be, but the minister should know that Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick are looking to lower the cost of wine sold in restaurants in exchange for a reduced markup—I want the minister to listen to this; a reduced markup—and indeed BC is promoting farm-gate sales of wine. Can the minister tell Ontarians that she will follow the lead of these other provinces, which do not have a wine industry nearly as vast as we have here in Ontario, get behind the producers and indeed provide an incentive to restaurants to reduce the markup on Ontario wine?

Hon Ms Churley: I'm certainly not going to say anything about the quality of PEI wine, but I will say that the quality of Ontario wine has improved greatly over the past

few years and in fact the sales of wines are, as I said, going extremely well.

In answer to your question, no, the option you put forward is not being considered at this time, but what is being considered and will continue to be considered is our partnership we've had for a number of years with that industry and with the grape growers' industry and with the various other ministries within the government. We will work in partnership with them and continue to make sure that industry does as well as it has been doing over the past year or two.

1500

HIGHWAY WIDENING

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): My question is to the Minister of Transportation. It's not just on behalf of my constituents but all the constituents of Durham who make the trek between Toronto and Durham region every day, and also the businesses in Durham that rely on Highway 401 and the transportation corridors between Toronto and Durham.

Given that the 401 is the major route of transportation between Toronto and Durham and that major industries such as Canadian Pacific Transport Co, which is building a \$12-million transfer facility in south Pickering, are now locating in Durham region, my question to the Minister of Transportation is, how fast is the expansion going? What are the parameters? When can we expect it to be done and how soon does he think the residents can expect relief on the transportation corridor in south Durham?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): I certainly welcome the opportunity to thank the member for Durham West for his commitment regarding this essential link. This fine representative breathes the project. He does it with other people. Plans for upgrading the 401 from six lanes to 12 lanes through the collector system are progressing right on time.

The first of nine major contracts was awarded in 1989. However, because of the concerns we all have at the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of the Environment, the environmental process has asked that the project not be delayed but that we meticulously look at all the potential hazards vis-à-vis the environment. In lieu of 1997, it will be 1998. It is a project that will serve all and put people to work but, more important, it is a project where the human dimension, where people were put before nuts and bolts, a success story for all to enjoy in the near future.

Mr Wiseman: My supplementary has to do with the road in the north part of my riding. It's a very Liberal road. It starts nowhere, it goes nowhere, has no direction and no ending to it. It's the Taunton-Steeles connection, built by the Liberals with no beginning, no end and no direction.

I would like the minister to inform my constituents today how this road is going to be made into something useful, not just the wasteful energies of the Liberal Party previously, and how we are going to make sure it becomes

an important thoroughfare for the residents of Durham to get to Metro.

Hon Mr Pouliot: I have no reason nor any desire to reconcile the philosophy at MTO with any philosophy ever associated with the people across, for they could run parallel for ever and never meet.

The environmental assessment is going to Metro council this spring. Construction of a new four-lane bridge to make access easier and safer is right on schedule. We welcome the opportunity to share this exciting project on the 401 and, more explicitly, on the parochial supplementary I feel I've addressed, and do it justice.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a question to the Minister of Labour. Minister, you will be aware that Denison Mines announced that it's going to stop the funding of the early detection and treatment program next month. You will know that this means funding will be cut for a lung cancer detection and treatment program serving thousands of Elliot Lake uranium miners.

The head of the Canadian Institute for Radiation Safety, the non-profit agency running the monitoring program, stated, "We're facing an epidemic of lung cancer." What are you doing to ensure that Denison Mines will not cut the service so necessary to those workers?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I will take the member's question as notice and reply to him tomorrow.

Mr Offer: I thought the minister would be on top of such a crucially important issue. Minister, I bring this matter to your attention because I am now in receipt of a copy of a letter from Mary Tate, the director of occupational health and safety branch of your ministry, which indicates—and I will quote in part from that letter—"The Ministry of Labour is reconsidering its chest X-ray and function testing program." It goes on to state, "We are considering reducing the amount of actual testing that the chest clinics carry out."

Minister, the chest X-ray and lung function testing program has been cut back by your ministry. I understand that the schedules for mobile chest clinic visits to plants in the north have not been prepared and that staff have already been cross-assigned. Will you stand in your place today and assure all those individuals that this program will in no way be reduced at any time and will in fact be reinstated?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I would be crazy to make that commitment to the member across the way. What I will tell him is what I told him at the beginning of his questions, that I'll get back to him tomorrow with the information in this case.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but since he's not here and the Premier's not here and the Deputy Premier's not here, I'm sort of running out of people to ask. Maybe I could put my question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

I hope the minister is aware that the county of Middlesex is unhappy with the recent arbitration procedure to

expand the city of London. The county maintains that rural concerns were not listened to due to the restrictive terms of reference. Since it is most unusual to have an arbitrator's report become legislation, I ask if this minister plans to send this bill to committee after second reading for public input.

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): I'm sure that I can tell the honourable member across the way that the Minister of Municipal Affairs would love to give you an answer to that.

Mr Murdoch: Mr Speaker, maybe you could direct me to a minister who could answer a question. It's unfortunate that we have heard from the Minister of Municipal Affairs today how the Cooke is going to rule everything now in Municipal Affairs. Since he's set up his henchmen like Sewell and Dale Martin to do all his work for him and now he's not here to answer questions when he—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): If it would be of assistance to the member, the normal procedure in the absence of a minister, and when there's no other minister to whom you wish to place your question, is that any designated minister may take the question as notice. The member is permitted a supplementary. If he wishes to address that question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, he may take the supplementary as well as notice and presumably pass it along to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr Murdoch: Since the minister is here now, maybe I could start over again. Can't do that? My supplementary is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Then maybe he can refer the question to the minister.

The Speaker: Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Murdoch: We have an arbitrator's report that has been presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. He indicated he was going to make legislation out of this report. Will this legislation be sent out for public input before it's made law?

Hon Mr North: Perhaps I could refer the supplementary to the—

Interjection: No.

Hon Mr North: I take the question as notice and I'll get an answer for the gentleman.

ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. On April 16 I attended a forum sponsored by the Oxford County Federation of Agriculture called Rural Concerns. The forum was designed to allow different interest groups in the agricultural community to present their issues of concern. One of the issues, raised by the local chapter of Women in Support of Agriculture, was regarding training and the role of agriculture in the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board.

Given the nature of what is in the discussion paper and without a clearly defined role for agriculture to be involved in it, could the Minister of Skills Development please tell this House what role he sees agriculture and agricultural organizations taking in the new training and adjustment board?

1510

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): I thank the member for Oxford for the question. It is a question that's being asked in the context of the ongoing consultations around the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. Because of those consultations on that question and others, I can't give him an exact answer about representation on the board. No specific sectors like steel, auto parts, tourism, food processing and so on are given places on the board; likewise with agriculture, and agriculture was not included in the first plans around the original proposals that came out of the previous Premier's council.

When I established an external consultative committee, I made a point of having the Ontario Federation of Agriculture represented on that. Mr Sulliman, who represents that section, is also on the steering committee of the business steering committee group that advises with respect to the membership of the business community. I understand they have assured the agricultural community that there will be a seat on the board in the business section relating to agriculture.

Mr Sutherland: My supplementary question has to do with the nature of the boards. There has also been concern expressed about the makeup of the local boards in that some of the more rural ridings are being put in with more urban ridings—in my case the involvement of the riding of Oxford with an area such as London—and that somehow agricultural concerns in training may be overlooked in the makeup of such a board, since an urban area would have much more industrial training concerns.

Can the minister assure this House that the actual makeup or the geographical area of the local boards will ensure that agricultural concerns regarding training will be addressed?

Hon Mr Allen: Yes, there are a number of local board areas that will be predominantly agricultural. There will be others in which agriculture is a very significant component. It is the intention that the local board structures, since they represent diverse labour market circumstances including a variety of different sectors, will have to have representation on them to deliver training to those specific sectors. Agriculture is certainly one of those. They will have to have their representation—not just representation; there will have to be mechanisms available that will make it possible to deliver training that is relevant to the agricultural community.

ONTARIO HYDRO CONTRACT

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): My question is for the Minister of Energy. Minister, you will know that Ontario Hydro has entered into a contract to buy electricity from Manitoba. In fact, it's going to buy 1,000 megawatts of electricity per year starting in the year 2000. You will also know that this purchase forms a critical part of Hydro's larger plan to meet our future electricity needs. But the Manitoba purchase is in jeopardy.

I have here, Minister, a copy of the notice of motion filed with the environmental assessment panel which is considering the construction of the transmission facilities needed to carry the Manitoba electricity into our province.

That motion has been filed by a coalition of independent power producers and environmental and aboriginal groups, and it asks specifically for a denial of approval for the transmission required to incorporate the Manitoba purchase.

In addition, there's another issue which arises here, Minister. If the Environmental Assessment Board rules in favour of the motion, there's going to be a financial penalty attached. This is what it is going to cost: If the board makes the ruling in June, which is the earliest possible date, it's going to cost Hydro \$92 million; if the board waits until early 1993, which it very well could, it's going to cost us \$182 million.

My questions to the minister are: First, if the motion succeeds, where are we going to get the 1,000 megawatts of electricity we need by the year 2000? Second, what are you going to do to protect Hydro's ratepayers? Remember, those are the people who this year had their rates go up by 11.8% when inflation was less than 2%. What are you going to do to ensure that these ratepayers pay the smallest possible penalty?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): The member will know that the contract for the Manitoba purchase was signed in 1989 during the former administration. In fact the signing was witnessed by the former Premier, if I recall correctly.

I think speculation over particular motions at the demand-supply planning hearing before the EAB is a little bit out of the context of the kinds of things the government has to consider. The member well knows that the board is looking at a whole range of supply options. The member also knows that last fall Ontario Hydro had so many non-utility generation proposals on the table which were making significant progress beyond Hydro's wildest dreams of just a few years ago in terms of demand management that the options opening out in front of us are substantial, and creative approaches to whatever decisions are made by the EAB hearing around any of the options that are before it do not present huge difficulties in terms of the energy future in this province.

MOTIONS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved that notwithstanding standing order 94(h) the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot item 5.

Motion agreed to.

Mr Cooke moved that Mr Morrow exchange places with Mr Bisson in order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

PETITIONS

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition here to add to the 75,000 petitions we've already received.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of

more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

I have affixed my signature to it.

PARKING FEES

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I present the following petition in regard to proposed parking fees suggested by the Ministry of Government Services in the Lambton county area, and it reads:

"We, the undersigned, object to the proposed parking fees which have been suggested by the Ministry of Government Services. We are all attempting to show restraint in our financial dealings in order to survive the current economic uncertainty of our province. Forcing the employees and the public to pay a fee for parking will only serve to further exacerbate our financial situation."

This is signed with more than 230 names.

RENT REGULATION

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens a permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation, the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

There are about 150 signatures on this petition.

1520

TAXATION

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I've also received a letter in the form of a petition, which I'd like to read as well:

"I am writing to express our concern and opposition to the prospect of a new real estate gains tax in the upcoming provincial budget. I am opposed to this additional tax on real estate gains for many reasons, including the following:

"All real estate gains on all properties except principal residences are taxed now, either as capital gains or as income. Real estate is already one of the most heavily taxed commodities in this province. Real estate and real estate gains are already subject to a wide variety of taxes, including income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax, goods and services tax, land transfer taxes, property taxes and a host of lot levies for schools, police, parks and other services.

"So-called speculation taxes just don't work. There's absolutely no evidence to suggest a special real estate gains tax will lower land or housing prices or that it would generate any significant net amount of tax revenue. In fact, in some cases housing and land prices can be driven up through such a tax, as investors withdraw property from the market, thereby reducing supply.

"The tax, as outlined in the NDP Agenda for People, unfairly tags legitimate small real estate investors as speculators. Over the years, thousands of Ontario citizens have purchased real estate as part of their retirement planning. The NDP government is trying to suggest that real estate investment is speculation and investors should pay an additional tax on any profit made.

"If the government really wants to lower housing costs, they could increase the supply"—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member may wish, on another occasion, to check with the table with respect to the appropriate form for petitions. I got the impression that the member was reading a letter to the House. This is time allotted for the presentation of petitions.

Mr Sola: This letter is in the form of a petition with 18 or 20 signatures on it, sir, so it may be in the improper form but it's still a petition.

The Speaker: Could the member conclude the presentation.

Mr Sola: "If the government really wants to lower housing costs, they could increase the supply of serviced land for building lots, streamline the subdivisions approval process, eliminate restrictive municipal zoning ordinances and a lot more. They would enjoy our complete support if they chose to do so. I am extremely concerned that such a tax will scare more investment out of Ontario and have a very negative effect on the entire real estate market, a driving force in the economy. I urge you to work with your colleagues in the Legislature to prevent another tax on real estate gains."

As I said, it's signed by about 18 or 20 people. I can't quite make out all the signatures.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

This is in addition to the some 75,000 names we've already presented to this Legislature, and I too affix my name to this petition.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I have been asked by a group of constituents from the great riding of Timiskaming to present this petition, in a rather unorthodox form, to the Legislative Assembly. It is in regard to a ratification process of the proposed constitutional amendments.

"To the Premier and my member of the Legislative Assembly in the province of Ontario:

"I, as a citizen of the province of Ontario, believe that the constitution of a generally democratic society truly belongs to its people and that my views on any changes to it must be heard, and final approval of such changes must be given by myself and my fellow citizens. Up to this time, there has been very limited opportunity for input from grassroots Canadians.

"I therefore request of you, who administer the affairs of this province, to make available every opportunity for the people to see and fully understand what the new Constitution will mean to each of us and then make provision for a final say by the people by way of referendum. Quebec is to have a referendum; I want nothing less."

I will append my signature to this.

TAXATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition signed by the residents of Kitchener and Waterloo.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We support the proposed changes to the Ontario tax for fuel conservation, the feebate scheme. We are in favour of increasing the taxes on the gas guzzler category of cars

and creating a new \$100 rebate for more efficient, gas-efficient cars.

"We approve of earmarking this extra revenue for energy and environmental projects such as grants for municipal bicycle paths. We request that the upcoming Ontario budget include the proposed changes to the Ontario tax for fuel conservation in its entirety."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have another petition as well, a petition that's been signed by 214 Ontario residents representing both the management and employees of a number of Ontario companies, including Swenson Canada, Ellis-Don Construction, Coad Construction, Unalloy/IWRC, Shandon Associates, Peterson and Habib Consultants and Sola Canada, which reads:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

1530

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways, without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister, who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs

in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

I have affixed my name to this petition.

Mr Murdoch: I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways, without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister, who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OPPOSITION DAY

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONDUCT OF MINISTERS

Mr Sorbara, on behalf of Mr Elston, moved opposition day motion 2:

Whereas the NDP government has undertaken to make "integrity in government" and "conduct of ministers" the centrepiece of a new NDP administration and made specific reference to that undertaking in its first speech from the throne;

And whereas, pursuant to that undertaking, the Premier (1) placed before the Legislature and the standing committee on administration of justice a new set of guidelines regulating conflict of interest and conduct of ministers of the crown; and (2) committed his government to introducing legislation based upon the committee's consideration of these guidelines;

And whereas several ministers and parliamentary assistants of the government have, since the NDP government took office, violated the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, the general standard of conduct applicable to elected officials and ministers of the crown and the specific guidelines initially adopted by the Premier;

And whereas in each such instance the Premier has applied an ad hoc, politically expedient standard and sanctions to those who have violated his own guidelines;

And whereas a special committee of the Legislature charged with examining the conduct of the Minister of Northern Development, having conducted 15 days of public and in camera hearings, found no justification for the

damaging remarks made by the Minister of Northern Development concerning an Ontario physician;

And whereas the strictest application of stringent standards of conduct is essential to the maintenance of public confidence in government and the integrity of the democratic process;

Therefore, this House calls upon the government to introduce specific legislation regulating conflict of interest and the conduct of ministers of the crown, including clear and enforceable sanctions for any violations.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): It is with some degree of regret that we as a party find ourselves constrained to bring forward a motion of this sort at this time. There's no doubt there are all sorts of urgent and pressing matters that we believe this House should be directing its attention to, including the state of the provincial economy; including the fact that as was mentioned earlier today in question period, some 200,000 jobs have been lost in Ontario during the course of the past year; including the fact that notwithstanding its commitment to eliminate food banks, we see that thousands and thousands of people in Ontario have only the recourse of food banks to feed themselves and their children and their spouses etc. We find ourselves constrained to move this motion and ask the House to engage in a consideration of the proposals we have here in this motion.

The first question is, why is it that we are here today with this motion? What's the central issue we're debating here? I put it to you, Mr Speaker, and I put it particularly to the government members of this House that the conduct of the Premier, and by extension of his cabinet and caucus have put into serious question the very trust that the people of this province have in the democratic process and in elected officials.

It was the Premier himself, when he was the Leader of the Opposition, who said in sometimes eloquent and glowing terms in this House and outside of the Legislature and around Ontario that the first question of elected officials is whether they meet the very highest and strictest standards of integrity in the discharge of their public responsibilities.

I put it to the members of this House that the election campaign of July and August and September, 1990, had in part to do with a vote on those questions, because the now Premier, the Leader of the Opposition at that time, crusaded across Ontario and campaigned and warranted, in the fashion of a consumer warranty, that his government would be different, that he would impose standards that were of the very strictest sort.

Since that time we have seen an ongoing parade of questionable conduct, beginning with the ejection from cabinet of the former Minister of Financial Institutions, the member for Welland-Thorold, and on and on. But in each of those cases the patron saint of piety, the member for York South, now the Premier of the province, has refused to call upon the very standards that the people of Ontario said to him, by way of the confidence they placed in him in electing him as the Premier and his party as the government party. He has consistently refused to apply those standards and in each case has taken a politically expedient approach to the question of conduct of ministers.

The worst and most high-profile example is the famous Shelley Martel affair, and it gives rise to this motion today.

What's the real issue in the Shelley Martel affair? The real issue in the Shelley Martel affair is this: It is okay to commit a civil slander; it is okay for a minister to lie; it is okay for a minister to impugn the reputation of a private citizen, so long, apparently, as she apologizes.

1540

How do you know when a minister's telling the truth? How do you know? How can the people of Ontario have confidence that when a minister makes a statement, that when a minister makes a remark in a press conference, that when a minister is quoted in a scrum, it's the truth? I see my friend the chief government whip laughing over there on the other side of the House. She represents the latest example of this inability to know whether what they're saying is true or not.

I happened to be driving into work this morning, into Queen's Park, and I was listening to a radio program called Breakfast at Queen's Park. There were three people on that program. The interviewer was Donna McElligot of CBC Radio. Steve Mahoney, the member for Mississauga West and our whip, was one of the guests and the member for Niagara South, the chief government whip, was the other guest.

I couldn't believe my ears at what I heard. The interviewer, by the way, mentioned the point of foreign junkets, and the chief government whip said: "We have a system of rewards. The government House leader gives me a list of the trips and I hand them out to the members who have gone the extra mile."

Thousands and thousands of people were listening to this program and most of them, I think, would be scandalized. So we raised this issue, on this day when we're debating integrity of government, with the Premier. Now I hear from members of our staff that outside this House after question period the Premier said, "It was a joke." But what about the thousands of people who were listening and weren't able to contact the Premier today to find out whether or not it was a joke? You see, that's the problem.

The way in which the Premier is applying standards of conduct in this Legislature and in the government, you have to get back to them to find out whether it was a lie, whether it was a joke, or whether the minister was misinformed. The people have lost trust in this government's ability to tell it like it is.

If Miss Martel, the member for Sudbury East, is not required to step down from office, that casts a shadow on every single member of this Legislature, because the new standard is that you can lie. The new standard is that as long as the Premier will back you up and you apologize, it's not a problem. But the issue here for us is the Premier himself, because it's the Premier who was elected on the basis that his standards would be higher. He's elected, and we find that he has no standards at all.

Let's go back for just a moment or two to Bob Rae in opposition. Let's go back to his attack on Joan Smith, a former Solicitor General and the member for London North. According to Bob Rae, Joan Smith made a transgression. At 2 o'clock in the morning she was woken up

by a telephone call in which she heard that the son of a family friend had just been arrested and would she please come down to the police station. Remember, she's the Solicitor General.

She apologized, but she acted out of compassion. It was a transgression and she said in this House: "It was wrong to go to the police station—I'm the Solicitor General—but I acted out of compassion." What did Bob Rae say? He said: "We will have her head. She will resign. We'll close down this Legislature unless she resigns." That was his standard.

Let's go back to Ken Keyes, the former member for Kingston and The Islands. Let's go back to Bob Rae's attack on Ken Keyes. What was his transgression? As Solicitor General he was entertaining a high-ranking official from Scotland Yard on an OPP boat and offered that official a bottle of beer, I think it was—some alcoholic beverage or other. That was a violation of the laws of the province of Ontario. Now, what drove him to do this? I suggest it was protocol. It was a matter of trying to be polite, entertaining a high-ranking official. So he was driven by protocol. He transgressed the law, and Bob Rae said, "It's not the particular instance, it's a matter of standards of conduct, and for the good of us all Ken Keyes must resign," and he did resign.

So, according to Bob Rae, if you're driven by protocol and you transgress, you must resign. If you're driven by compassion, as in the case of Joan Smith, you must resign.

What about Shelley Martel? By her own admission she was driven by anger, she was mad, she lost her temper. Bob Rae says in that case it's okay. So compassion is no good for this Premier, protocol is no good for this Premier, but anger and venom from the mouth of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is acceptable.

Bob Rae said in opposition that this was a threshold question, that if the people do not trust us to enforce the very highest standards, then we can't get on with the rest of the business we're elected to conduct.

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): "And I will change that."

Mr Sorbara: He said, as my friend the member for Ottawa East says, "I will change that," and the people voted for him, they voted for that change. He has turned his back on those people and he, not the others, has committed the fundamental breach of trust. Virtually every editorialist in the province has commented on this now. The reputation of the Minister of Northern Development can never be repaired. The Toronto Star said, "He has allowed Martel to drag down the entire government, depleting it of political capital and diluting its sense of morality."

This is not a place where there is a guarantee of employment. We are here to occupy positions for a while. Ministers come and go. Harry Truman said it best when he said, "It's not the office holder that's important; it's the office itself." What has happened over the course of the past 18 months is that the offices the ministers hold have been degraded.

This is not a personal attack on the member for Sudbury East. This has nothing to do with personalities. This

has to do with simply upholding a particular standard of conduct. If we don't do that, those who come here after us—and we will soon be replaced, no doubt—will look to the precedents, to what happened in 1990, 1991 and 1992 under Bob Rae, and they will enforce those standards.

We say simply to the Premier that this can no longer go on. There must be guidelines, there must be a very high standard of integrity. We say to him, by way of this motion and this opposition day, that the government must now bring forward to this Legislature a set of guidelines that the Premier of Ontario, whose reputation is really in question, who made a commitment in an election campaign to enforce a set of standards, must finally bring to the Legislature those standards and make a public commitment, not only to us but to the people of Ontario, to enforce those standards. I look forward to the support of the government members as we vote on this resolution.

1550

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have had a quite considerable involvement with the Martel inquiry and the Martel affair so I will attempt to be very brief. I am going to refer to page 41 of the decision of the minority report. It's very interesting, because page 41 includes the remarks made by counsel to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly. These are not the words of any partisan, political person who was involved in the Martel inquiry. These are the words of counsel, who provided an analysis of the facts. Counsel says this:

"So long as there is legislation in place which protects the privacy of this sort of individual information, it appears that it is a violation of the spirit of that legislation to provide and circulate estimates or hypotheses of what that information might be. The communication of such information not only represents an apparent violation of the individual's privacy because the information appears to be confidential in nature; it is arguably more damaging than the circulation of actual confidential information because it is inaccurate, and perhaps damagingly so.

"Nor does it appear that this concern can be mitigated by appropriate disclaimers that the information is 'hypothetical' or 'an estimate.' So long as that information is coming from the office of a government MPP, or indeed from any MPP, the recipient of the information will be inclined inevitably to think that it is accurate and based on government records."

Counsel is saying that what happened in the Martel affair, what the member for Sudbury East and the member for Sudbury, the parliamentary assistant, did was essentially to break the law; they broke the spirit of the law as it exists in this province, and that's the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. To these people who sit, to the 10 of them who are here now, I congratulate you for being here—

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order. I won't allow any exchange from one side to the other. The member for Willowdale has the floor.

Mr Harnick: The Minister of Natural Resources says there was no breach of the law. I recommend to the Minister

of Natural Resources, before he pops off and tells me about breaches of the law, that he pick up this report and read on page 41 what counsel said to the committee. What counsel said to the committee was that this was tantamount to breaching the freedom of information act. But do you know what that means to the members on that side of the House? It means absolutely nothing. They can go to receptions and they can lie and slander citizens of this province. They can run constituency offices where they—

The Deputy Speaker: I just warn you: Be careful with your language.

Mr Harnick: Mr Speaker, in this situation, where we have the admission that that's what the member did, I don't know any better way to repeat it, because I'm repeating what the member said about herself. She had a lie detector test—

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: If I heard the member correctly, I heard him assert that members on this side of the House lie and slander. I think that's quite unparliamentary.

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your seat. I heard exactly the same as you did. This is the reason I stood up and this is why I warned the member for Willowdale to be careful in his choice of words. I consider this finished unless somebody else has a point of order.

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It's traditional to withdraw those types of remarks, and I wonder if that's the procedure we're going to follow today.

The Deputy Speaker: I've been absolutely clear: I will not tolerate any accusation of anyone in this House to be liars. The Chair will not accept that.

Mr Harnick: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the warning.

If one reads page 41, in the remarks and the analysis prepared by independent counsel to that committee, what she has told us is that there has been a breach of the freedom of information act. That doesn't mean anything to the people who breached that act; they continue to sit here every day. They continue to sit here in spite of their admissions of breaching the Premier's guidelines. In spite of the fact that counsel has said they have breached the law, they continue to sit here every day, and every day it means nothing to them, and every day we have a litany of more of the same. Today it was the chief government whip. Who knows who it's going to be tomorrow?

I think that is precisely why my friends in the Liberal Party have brought forward a resolution, and the final paragraph reads:

"Therefore, this House calls upon the government to introduce specific legislation regulating conflict of interest and the conduct of ministers of the crown, including clear and enforceable sanctions for any violations."

I regret very much that is what this government needs and I regret very much that is what my friends in the Liberal Party believe we need, because the fact is that what we're talking about here is morality; we're talking about decent, honest behaviour and we're talking about ethics. The fact that they have to bring a resolution before this

House to say that we need clear and enforceable sanctions because it's not enough that people would know what is right and wrong is very regrettable. I believe people should know right from wrong, and if someone transgresses, they should know they should resign, or the Premier should know, without needing something written down to say, "If you breach morality, you're going to be out of the cabinet." I believe that should happen without having enforceable rules, because we should know better than that. We should be at a higher level.

But because of the conduct of members of this government, we are not at that level. I regret that my friends in the Liberal Party think everybody in this House will behave that way if and when they are in government. I regret that, because I certainly don't think people should have to be told what is right and what is wrong and how it should be enforced, but that appears to be the level to which we have sunk in this Legislature with this government.

I urge the people who have been a part of this Martel inquiry to read what counsel said, not to read their own majority report, biased and politically partisan as it is. I urge you to read what independent counsel said, what someone steeped and learned in the law has said in her analysis of the facts. I appreciate that to most of you that doesn't mean anything, but I think morality might better start right now and right here.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy): In the words of Justice Evans, one of the things we must try to avoid in debates around conflicts of interest that emanate from the members of this Legislature is the partisan political hyperbole we are sometimes wont to engage in. I've just heard some of that.

Let me try to remind members of the House of the nature of conflict-of-interest legislation, the nature of conflict-of-interest guidelines—that we want to ensure that the public is protected—and with respect to which the members of the House have very clear and understandable expectations of behaviour and conduct.

I have been thoroughly amazed, throughout this whole process of the discussion of the special committee's investigations, by the way in which members have mixed the term "conduct of behaviour" with "conflict of interest." I would point out to the members of the House that with respect to conflict of interest and the kinds of problems that have been experienced by members of this Legislature in past governments—in fact, by members of other governments—it is that which has given rise to the public cynicism we see, to the public demand for clear conflict-of-interest rules. By and large, that really comes from the public saying: "We want to have honest government with integrity. We want to know clearly where people's interests lie when they're making decisions."

Those kinds of conflict-of-interest guidelines and rules speak very clearly to the kinds of pecuniary interests individuals can have, the trust interests and holdings: Where's your money when you're part of making a decision in government? Is that decision you're involved with going to affect your assets, your bank, your stocks, your accounts, your property? Those are the sorts of things about

conflict of interest we must guard against, all of us, in terms of being public members, to ensure that we can maintain the highest level of confidence from the public. Unfortunately, I don't believe that level of confidence is there. We must work to build that up again.

1600

What else? What about members of our immediate families? What role should they have in terms of gaining employment, contracts, those sorts of things? Where do we have the opportunity to have full disclosure about the holdings both of our spouses, our families and of our individual holdings so that the public has an opportunity to judge our actions and to judge the way in which we involve ourselves in decision-making in government?

Quite frankly, those are the kinds of elements of conflict of interest that will lead to clear and open government, but those are not, let me point out again, the sorts of issues that you've heard addressed from the members of the other two parties in the beginning of this debate, nor were those the kinds of issues or points of view that were put before the special committee investigating the issues that were referred to earlier on.

I'll go on. What about divestment? In this government, in this Parliament, we have very clear rules and guidelines for members of the cabinet to divest themselves of interests that could lead to a conflict of interest at some point in time. There hasn't been a previous government that has ever set up those kinds of very stringent demands on members of cabinet. That's taking a very serious point of view and advancing the level of demand with respect to conflict-of-interest rules and guidelines.

The members opposite will make much of demanding that there should be legislation with respect to conflict-of-interest guidelines. We have, as you know, legislation in place in this province which we, as a government, have indicated we think needs improvement as well. We have asked a three-party committee to be involved in making recommendations to improve the legislation. In the meantime, the Premier has put out his own guidelines. He has insisted that members of cabinet, parliamentary assistants and others oblige those guidelines and live up to the spirit of those guidelines, Mr Speaker, and I think you will find that in fact we have.

Let me turn for a moment to the very issue the other members have been raising with respect to the remarks of the Minister of Northern Development, and that somehow this is a violation of conflict of interest, that somehow the legislative initiative they demand would address this situation. We went through a very intensive period of examination of the facts with regard to the remarks of the Minister of Northern Development as a result of the call from the opposition members to set up a special committee. That committee was set up and that investigation has taken place.

In the lead-up to that investigation and the call for that committee, I heard all sorts of remarks from members opposite about what was going to be found: that it was going to be found that the member had received private information from the Ministry of Health or that the member had divulged confidential information and had violated the

freedom of information legislation. In fact, I heard the allegation here just a moment ago that what she did was tantamount to violation of the freedom of information legislation. Interesting. If you have no private information, I don't know how you can be in a position to violate the legislation, but those allegations are still being made and they were made at the time.

Those allegations went even further. I heard from the members opposite allegations that I, as a minister, would somehow be implicated in this whole process, and members of my staff and members of my ministry and, my God, there was a whole coverup going on in this province.

What came of that? Absolutely no evidence to support anything that was said by the members of the opposition with respect to this at all; absolutely not. No smoking gun, no conspiracy of coverup. Nothing was substantiated by that process. What we have, unfortunately—let me come back to the words of Mr Justice Evans—is a lot of partisan political hyperbole going on.

On this side of the House what we're interested in is trying to work—and it would be nice if it could be collectively with all members of the Legislature and all elected politicians—to try and change the public perception of the commitment of individuals in public life, to try and elevate the respect the public has for government, to try and open up government, to try and bring integrity to the process.

Mr Speaker, I will remind you of some comments that were made in the first throne speech of this government, and I think it is really important that we come back to what the goal of our government is with respect to the issue of open government and integrity. Let me read from that throne speech:

"We must create a greater sense of integrity in the work of government. We are under no illusions that this is easy, since the public remains distrustful of governments and other large institutions. It is our job to address that cynicism and to overcome it. When my government makes mistakes, it will admit them."

That is what has happened in this government. The kinds of mistakes that have been made by human beings in ordinary situations where the ordinary person would fall folly to making mistakes of those sorts, and which I believe the public actually understands, have been admitted.

The way the opposition is somehow trying to tie all of this together with violation of conflict-of-interest guidelines and saying that there's something underhanded and something wrong going on on the government side of the benches is untenable, because quite frankly it is that kind of partisan politics that leads to the public cynicism out there.

Let's get the issues straight. Let's put them on the floor. Let's deal with the issues as they are. If you go through, one by one, the kinds of allegations they're making, you'll find they are unfounded, Mr Speaker. Quite frankly, we would like to stress that we are very supportive of introduction of tougher conflict-of-interest legislation in this province. We think we have taken steps by introducing guidelines that go far beyond the legislation that exists now. We're quite prepared, with the support of the kind of work that is being done by the members of all three parties,

as well as recommendations from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner himself, to move forward and to develop a legislative package for that.

When I look at the opposition day motion before us, when I see this issue being tied in with conflict-of-interest violations, my goodness, that's not what they're talking about at all. They're talking about the committee which already had an investigation and already developed a report that has been tabled here. There's a sham going on. The people deserve to know there is a distinction between conflict of interest, between the kinds of allegations made of the members of previous governments and of governments in other jurisdictions and the kinds of honest mistakes of human beings that have taken place here which these members are referring to.

It's not in the public interest to have that kind of confusion continue. It is not in the public interest to continue to try to debase all politicians by the kinds of actions of partisan politics in the House. While we won't be supporting the motion, we will support the concept of tougher legislation and we'll move to bring that forward.

[Applause]

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Was that applause for me? Thank you.

I was interested in the last comment by the member who just spoke that they are in support of the introduction of tougher laws regarding conflict of interest. You don't understand that's not our problem. You could introduce all the tough laws in the world you want, but if you don't have someone at the head of the government who's prepared to enforce those laws, who's prepared to interpret them with some form of integrity, then don't waste the time of this legislative precinct to introduce laws that require hours of committee work and millions of dollars in staff time, lawyers and everyone to put into some workable order some clear-cut guidelines when your boss, Minister, is not prepared to enforce them. That's the point.

When you say you're prepared to support tougher laws, it clearly proves to me that you don't understand the problem we're trying to identify. We see no consistency, no attempt by this Premier to recognize mistakes and deal with them appropriately.

I could go on for hours, which I don't have, through quotes from the past when Bob Rae was on this side of the House. That has been so frustrating, it's almost a waste of time. What I'd rather do is give you something a little more recent, a February 1991 quote from the Premier:

"I suspect that, looking at members of the opposition, there is going to be the occasion when you are going to want to say to the Premier, 'It's all very well. Don't tell us what the standards are in the law. Tell us what your own standards are and tell us what you think should happen,' and I do not think you are going to be satisfied with the answer that says: 'Oh, well, wait a minute now. We've got a committee looking into that. As soon as I hear back from the committee, I'll get back to you.'"

Bob Rae went on to say, "It has been my sense that at some point the buck also stops at the Premier's office, and

there has to be that understanding. I don't know how it could be more clear."

1610

What's interesting is that while the focus of the opposition motion is clearly on the Minister of Northern Development, it is more general than that. It says in one of the whereases:

"And whereas several ministers and parliamentary assistants of the government have, since the NDP government took office, violated the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, the general standard of conduct applicable to elected officials and ministers of the crown and the specific guidelines initially adopted by the Premier;

"And whereas in each such instance the Premier has applied ad hoc, politically expedient standards and sanctions to those who have violated his own guidelines..."

This, for the members opposite, is the roster of this august chamber. All of our names are here. I went through the government side just an hour ago and I highlighted 27 members who have been in some form of trouble or another with the Premier's guidelines or the law.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Am I clear?

Mr Mahoney: No, Millsie, I think you're okay.

We have the member for Downsview, who got in trouble with Mel Lastman because he decided to issue some business cards after he had been elected here. We have the member for Cambridge who, we all know, was involved in fixing tickets. We have the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health, the member for Scarborough East, who had to resign over some form of conflict. We have the member for Scarborough West, who sent a letter trying to influence the outcome of an independent body.

We have the member for Fort York who, while he was a cabinet minister, was using the government's chauffeur-driven limousine to drive his mother to the polls to vote in a municipal election. We have the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, who was involved in a conflict up in that particular area, got in all kinds of trouble with the press and was summarily called into the Premier's office.

We have the member for Riverdale, who was living in co-op housing at a time when she was a member of the cabinet. We have the member for Port Arthur, who after being elected, received some \$20,000 in workers' compensation benefits because she had a bad back and couldn't sit too long. We have the member for Dovercourt with us in the House, who apparently signed a document in his practice of law that he should not have signed.

We have, my goodness, the member for Niagara South, who this morning on a radio show with me as the chief opposition whip, told everyone that she hands out trips and rewards—

Mr Mills: I haven't had any.

Mr Mahoney: Millsie, yours is coming, but remember, when she sends you, you've got to buy her a little Tinker Bell to bring back so that she's happy.

We have a number of members, at least three from the Hamilton area, cabinet ministers, who were involved in secret meetings to tell NDP members of the Hamilton

council about the cancellation of the Red Hill Creek Expressway.

We had a member who was in jail, for goodness' sake.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Under a tree.

Mr Mahoney: Chained himself to a tree, chained himself to the Peace Tower in Ottawa; I don't know what he did, but they put him in the slammer, and they should have put the Premier in right beside him.

At a time when we were dealing with rent control bills, we had a couple of members who were landlords who were accused by members of the Conservative caucus of outrageous rent increases.

We had a member who appeared—can you imagine how awful?—as a Sunshine Boy. Unbelievable.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Fully clothed.

Mr Mahoney: Fully clothed yet, but wearing nothing but a smile, I'm told.

Mr Curling: That's the whip's puppy.

Mr Mahoney: That's the whip's puppy. He's getting a trip.

We've had so many conflicts, so many confusions, it's simply unbelievable.

There has been one, I say in all honesty, that I think was dealt with properly. That was the member for Ottawa Centre, who is here in this House, who inappropriately blurted out the name of someone who had done something with regard to the health care system. She did the right thing. She stood down. She resigned her seat in cabinet, she took the time to allow the Premier to clear the air and she was subsequently reappointed to cabinet. I congratulate her for doing that. I think that is the proper thing to do.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I just heard the member for Ottawa Centre call the member who's speaking a slanderous swine.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I withdraw my comment.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would ask everyone to be extremely careful. I know you can achieve that.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, I must tell you it didn't bother me. I was paying the member a compliment for having done the right thing. She obviously doesn't even recognize a compliment. That just shows the level the member really belongs in with those kinds of remarks.

I've given you a bit of an outline in a very short period of time and I haven't done them all. There are more but I'm running out of time, I'm sorry.

People throw up the throne speech. It occurred to me, when the minister got up to speak to this, to wonder what she did, what punishment she deserves, to be asked to come in here and defend this government. Obviously she did something.

I'll go back to the throne speech—memories of days gone by. Imagine this: Having gone through the litany of conflicts and mistakes, all we ask is for somebody by the name of Premier Bob Rae to deal with this. We're willing

to admit mistakes are made. Human beings make mistakes, admit them, pay the price, take the punishment and live by the standards this Premier put before this Legislature in the first throne speech. I remember those heady days when everyone thought: "You know, maybe it was a mistake that we elected these guys, but let's give them a chance. Just maybe something new will come out of the first socialist government."

When they said in the throne speech, "My government's first challenge is to earn the trust and respect of the people of Ontario"—it ain't working, folks. "We will set clear standards of behaviour for the conduct of ministers, members of the Legislature and senior government officials....We will introduce legislation on conflict of interest at both provincial and municipal levels....We must create a greater sense of integrity in the work of government." Then the caveat they all wrap around themselves when they make these errors and nothing happens is, "When my government makes mistakes, it will admit them."

We have had about 18 months of mistake followed by admission followed by mistake followed by admission followed by mistake. When in goodness' name are we going to have some form of discipline, some form of integrity, some form of this government living up to standards it demanded so pompously when it was on this side of the House that everyone else in the world should live up to, some imaginary socialist NDP doctrine?

I have here article after article. "Martel Should Quit to Salvage Honour." That is truly one of the tragedies: that a bright star of the New Democratic Party has been shot down in flames by her own inability to recognize the proper course and by a Premier who so stubbornly stuck to his guns on this issue that he has destroyed her—maybe intentionally, I suggest to you. Maybe the Premier really did see that this lady could be a threat to his leadership one day and this is a good opportunity to get rid of her.

"Martel Slanders Hit Rae's Integrity," "NDP Members Soften Report on Martel"—the adjustments by the majority members of the committee of that report written by the legal staff just to make it sound better—and the one that is so true and simple that says, "A Lie Is a Lie Is a Lie."

1620

When I hear the kind of reaction from the Minister of Housing to the speech I'm making here, it reminds me of a day in this House when I as a member in the government back bench was attacked by your boss, your Premier, and accused totally falsely, with no information, with lies. He threw it all over the place with no fear or regard as to what it would do to a member's career. That was your hero, folks. That was your leader. He didn't give a damn what he said about a member and it cost a tremendous amount of money, time and heartache to come back and straighten that man out. He has no principles. He has no morals. He doesn't care who he tries to destroy. He doesn't—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order. Please take your seat. Frankly, you're going too far. You're imputing all kinds of faults to the Premier and the Chair will not accept that.

Mr Mahoney: With all due respect, I don't accept your ruling but I will suggest that my time is up in any event.

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your chair. The procedures are extremely clear. You don't argue with the Speaker on a ruling.

Mr Mahoney: I would not argue, but I would reiterate that as far as I'm concerned there is no integrity in this government. There cannot be integrity in this government when there is clearly no integrity in its leader. He doesn't know what to do, and if he does he refuses to do it.

Mr Tilson: The subject before us today, of course, is the matter that's raised in the motion before us, which has to do with integrity in government and conduct of ministers. The solution that's being put forward by this resolution is, "This House calls upon the government to introduce specific legislation regulating conflict of interest and the conduct of ministers of the crown, including clear and enforceable sanctions for any violations."

I have trouble with this resolution. I have trouble in that it probably will be creating more bureaucracy. There's enough bureaucracy in this place. I suppose it will give more powers, more responsibility, to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The commissioner may require more staff. There'll be more investigations. There may be hearings. The resolution is quite silent as to how it deals with that. But I'm averse to the Liberal resolution, which will require the spending of more taxpayers' dollars on a process that is already in place that I think is quite adequate. I therefore will not be supporting the resolution.

The quandary I'm in is that not supporting the resolution—I'm certainly not condoning the actions of the Premier and the actions of this government—puts me in a very difficult position where, because of the rules of this House, I'm unable to make an amendment to the resolution. I must confess to having said that I'm opposed to the resolution. I will say that the Premier, in his capacity as the head of this government, has the ability to choose who is in his cabinet for whatever position he wishes. He also has the ability to remove individuals from his cabinet. He can dismiss them for any number of reasons: perhaps for just a change of policy, or perhaps because of his guidelines with respect to conflict of interest.

Although I oppose the resolution I understand the intent and the frustration of the Liberal opposition in putting forward this resolution, particularly when we're talking about the integrity of this government. I'm not going to repeat all the various people on the list that has been referred to by the member for Mississauga West, who have done wrong in this government. We all know what they are. We all know this government does a great deal of defending its integrity, specifically when you start to read the Premier's guidelines with respect to conflict of interest as referred to on December 12, 1990, and announced by the Premier of this province.

The very first principle is to increase public confidence in the integrity of the government. How's it doing that? How is he doing that? We've just spent \$500,000 in listening as to the conduct—it has nothing to do with conflict of

interest; it's called the "conduct" of a minister of this crown who admittedly lied. She said she lied, and she took a lie detector test to say that she was telling the truth about lying. Can you imagine?

Principle 4: "Ministers shall at all times act in a manner that will bear the closest public scrutiny." We have the right to demand a high standard from our ministers. That's what the Premier's guideline says, the guidelines imposed upon cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants, more stringent standards of conduct than those imposed by the existing conflict-of-interest legislation and policy. How is that being enforced by the member for Sudbury East when she acts the way she has? She won't resign and the Premier won't fire her.

Principle 5: "Ministers shall perform the duties of office and arrange their affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity of the government." That's what it's all about. That's what this government was trying to do with its initial throne speech: It was trying to develop integrity. I'm afraid this government led by Premier Bob Rae has miserably failed.

As the member for Mississauga West said, you look at all the headlines, all the polls, all the discussions in your own constituency. I can't believe the comments they've made with respect to the member for Sudbury East. I can't believe it.

Any time this minister's going to stand in this House from this point on we are all going to be very suspicious as to what she has to say. Is she telling the truth? Is she mad today? Is she annoyed? Has she lost it, to use her words? Will we be believing her? It's called integrity.

As I say, although I am opposed to the resolution I understand its intent and I understand its seriousness, and I must say that it gives me great concern as to where this government's going in trying to develop not only the integrity of the government but the integrity of this House. The members of the public, I'm afraid, look on us less and less as to what we do in this place.

Of course today there have been more actions that have come forward, when the House leader is now talking about perks for trips, and I understand the Premier has said that's all a joke. It will remain to be seen whether it was a joke. I don't think it's a joke.

The Minister of the Environment today was talking about the evidence that's come forward in a decision from the Ontario Municipal Board that she is interfering in the process. That's the very thing the minister from Sudbury East—

Hon Ms Gigantes: Oh, go on.

Mr Tilson: That's exactly what she has done. The Ontario Municipal Board has stated that in its decision. The Minister of Northern Development, the member for Sudbury East, resigned at one point for interfering in quasi-judicial proceedings, and for some unearthly reason the Premier did not accept her decision. Six months later she's slandering a doctor in northern Ontario and telling lies to her constituents.

The member for Sudbury, who was here in the House—the evidence came forward in the facts of the

Martel affair hearing that she had her staff give misleading stories to the public. Terrible. She's a parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of Labour. She is subject to these guidelines. The minister's done nothing with respect to her. It seems you can do anything over there—anything.

So the resolution is most relevant; it's just not the way to do it. All the Premier has to do is enforce his very guidelines. That's all he has to do. But for some unearthly reason—whether he can't find any more talent or whether he's just overlooking these things or whether his principles are not quite as high as he alleged they used to be.

There are other members of this House who wish to address this subject. As the member for Mississauga West said, there are many, many editorials and newspaper articles that have been written commenting on this whole subject of integrity and specifically the Martel affair, because that's what sparked it.

She even refused to resign and refused to deal with it even before the committee had finished its hearings. She said: "I'm not resigning. No matter what that committee says, I'm not resigning." There's no integrity.

1630

I'm going to close by referring to one of many articles that have been written on the Martel affair; it came out in March in the *Toronto Star*. This is the attitude of this government. Referring to the member for Sudbury East, "She thinks herself too valuable to the north—and to the government—and believes voters in her Sudbury riding will back her at election time." The article says, "She still just doesn't get it." I think that's the problem. She still doesn't get it. She doesn't understand what she's done.

"Martel has now recast herself as the victim: an earnest, innocent, principled politician who was hard done by." Can you imagine? She paints herself as the victim—some integrity of that specific minister.

"She claims to have been overworked and overwrought after fighting so hard to keep doctors in Sudbury. She says she felt 'personally manipulated' by Dr Donahue, for whom she had lobbied the Health ministry. And she blames her December 5 outburst on a bystander who 'pressed a button' by merely mentioning the doctor's name in her presence. The devil made her do it." Can you imagine? Where are the Premier's guidelines?

The article concludes, with respect to the member for Sudbury East: "She admits she 'fell far short' of Premier Bob Rae's guidelines for cabinet ministers, and even considered resigning. But she has persuaded herself that her indispensability to the north, and to cabinet, outweighs any wrongdoing on her part." Can you imagine? "These are self-indulgent rationalizations. The only question is whether the Premier remains equally myopic over his own conduct guidelines and will keep a discredited and unrepentant politician in cabinet."

I'm going to close by saying I oppose the resolution—not on the issue of intent. I understand it; it is quite clear what the Liberal opposition is trying to do. They're concerned, they're frustrated; so are we in the Conservative caucus. It's become so clear what this minister should do and what it appears possibly other ministers should do. But

I'm afraid it is developing more legislation that will create more bureaucracy and more cost to the taxpayer of this province. All the Premier has to do is his job and enforce his own guidelines. That's all he has to do, and that's all we ask him to do.

Mr Mills: It's indeed a pleasure for me to join in this debate this afternoon and put right some of the misconceptions in the debate so far. We have to put everything in proper perspective. I have no doubt that the real issue today, the real issue of this motion, is Shelley Martel.

I see my friend and colleague across the way, the member for Renfrew North, already going through a whole pile of books, and I'm sure that when his turn comes to speak we will undoubtedly be treated to some history lesson on what people have done in the past, and we await that pleasure.

I'm rather alarmed at the member for Mississauga West holding up the sheet, waving it in the wind, about all the things everybody has done wrong so far.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): You're clean, Gord.

Mr Mills: Mr Speaker, I'll address my comments to you. I went to church on Sunday, as I go most Sundays. I'm not saying that because I've got some corner on virtue; I'm sure a lot of other members also went. As the member for Mississauga West held up this sheet and went through all the people, oddly enough the sermon at the church I went to Sunday centred on that famous story about the woman who committed adultery. This poor, unfortunate woman was grabbed by the officials of the day, and they said to Jesus: "This woman is an adulteress. You know the law. Let's stone her to death." Anybody who's been there can tell you there's no shortage of stones out there; they seem to be everywhere. Anyway, He turned around and said: "Just a minute here. Let somebody who hasn't done anything wrong throw the first stone."

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): Christ said, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Mr Mills: My friend the member for Welland-Thorold is quoting explicitly from the Bible. I'm not going to do that, but you get the gist of what I'm trying to say: Here we have the righteous member for Mississauga West, and I think he should have listened to the sermon I listened to on Sunday and gained some insight from that.

I was asked to be on the committee that investigated the conduct of the Minister of Northern Development. I, along with my colleagues, was told that if we didn't want to be there we could step aside. I chose not to do that. Also, I want to make it perfectly clear to the public watching this afternoon that our committee members, the members of government, made it very clear at the outset that we would not be a party to hiding anything, we would not be a party to any misrepresentation of anything; that whatever came up, wherever the chips fell, that's the way it was going to be. That was agreed to by all the members, believe it or not, on that committee.

I went on that committee. I'm not swayed by the previous political arguments that have gone on. I haven't been involved in the René Fontaine episode or Joan Smith, and

all I know about the poor fellow on the boat drinking beer with the fellow from Scotland Yard was what I read in the newspaper—I must say it made me chuckle at the time—so I'm not really caught up in the history of the House and I'm not swayed by anything and it's not payback time for me.

When I was on that committee, I listened to everything very carefully. What I have to say here this afternoon I believe to be my honest reflection on all the evidence that was placed in front of me. I think what we've heard so far this afternoon is rather a hyped-up affair, where the Minister of Northern Development has done something that almost warrants her being dragged off to the scaffold. I want to get to the real nitty-gritty of this story.

Here we have the minister, who by all accounts and to all purposes was absolutely exhausted. She had a schedule—I had the opportunity to find out what she did that day and the day previously—that would have devastated a huge, fit male person who was doing PT every day. It was a devastating schedule. However, in recognizing her commitment to the north, she travelled over to Thunder Bay to the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy meeting. While there, she's absolutely interested in mining and putting her ministry forward, when, out of the blue, Mrs Dodds shows up.

Mr Kormos: Ms Dodds. Ms Dodds?

Mr Mills: No, she said "Mrs." Mrs Dodds showed up and started an argument with the minister. I think it's fair to say that Mrs Dodds has the reputation that she will argue with anyone, upset anybody, on anything and everything. So there she comes and slams the minister and gets into this awful argument with her. I must say that, given the circumstances, it's rather human to lash back; I think it was human.

Having lashed back and said some things the minister regretted very much afterwards, what does she do? The minister had her executive assistant phone Mrs Dodds and say, "Look, what the minister said was not right and we would appreciate that you don't repeat it."

1640

Subsequent to that, she called Mrs Dodds and apologized for what she said. Where I come from—maybe I'm a strange fellow, and I've had a lot of things said about me and bad things, wrongs—people come to me and say, "Look, Gord, we're sorry." My inner feeling is that I accept an apology on that basis. I think accepting apologies for indiscretions is the cornerstone of what life is all about. This is what separates us from the animal kingdom. The animal kingdom cannot rationalize, it can't think, it can't apologize. They get into a scrap and they devour one another, but we are a plane above. I would like to think that it's incumbent upon us, as we live this life, to accept an apology from the heart, as it was given in the case of the minister to Mrs Dodds.

To put that in perspective, all of the people who knew about this indiscretion were two or three at the most, who were gathered around there. The big argument across the road here is that this doctor was disgraced by what the minister said. Keep in perspective that the only thing that

was said was in that close group of two or three people, but the damage was done when Mrs Dodds came to Toronto. She didn't ask Dr Donahue if it was in order to call anybody. The first thing she did was call the Globe and Mail. She wanted it in the Globe and Mail about the Minister of Northern Development. She called Mike Harris: "Look, we've got a tiger by the tail here. What can we do about it?" She called Dianne Cunningham: "What can we do about it?" She was in a frenzy like a piranha that was trying to make great effort of this. This was where the damage was done. Then the damage to this doctor was further done by the questions that were asked in this House, without him ever being consulted, without him ever being asked if he wanted his name bandied about.

Let's keep in perspective that originally we've got two or three people gathered together in a room. They were the only people who knew that conversation. The minister apologized. She wrote a letter to follow up her verbal apology, but still that's not enough. They wanted blood and they wanted to embarrass the New Democrat government as much as they could.

Dr Donahue came before the committee. I can remember him sitting down there, and he said, "You know, I'm so scared of the government. It's devastated me. When I get a piece of notepaper and I see it's embossed with some government office, I break out into some sort of cold sweat, I'm so frightened about this notepaper."

Mr Stockwell: He did not.

Mr Mills: He did say that. This is the same doctor, the doctor whom embossed notepaper frightens, who at a public meeting on November 15 in Sudbury had the severance cheques for his staff. He was going to close up but he never really did. He was going to go to the United States, but he opened up a corner shop. This is the same man who was scared of embossed notepaper, who threw his severance cheques at the Treasurer of Ontario. Does that strike you, Mr Speaker, as somebody who is scared of the government, who was scared of the minister? I doubt it. Obviously he wasn't scared at all.

Now I would like to turn to the allegations made about my friend and colleague the member for Sudbury. There's a great deal of nonsense in here about her conduct. To put that into perspective, Mr Speaker, you've got a constituency. I ask you. Here we have a hot potato in Sudbury. The incident has been fanned to a high degree by Dr Donahue. He's sent out letters to all his patients to say what the government is doing to him. So obviously there's high tension and all the constituents are phoning my colleague's office for some sort of information.

What did she do? She had piles of information that was in the public domain, in the newspapers, about what this fellow was doing and what he earned. There was nothing secret. She had no access to any documents. Perhaps, Mr Speaker, she did what you and I would do when we are bombarded with questions like lately about bilingual signs. I research it and then hopefully am able to put the government's point of view or the government's twist on the particular issue.

The member for Sudbury did nothing worse. Here's a hot issue in her riding, and she worked out a few figures, based on public information, on the back of an envelope in her office, I believe. Then when people phoned she said, "Obviously there's something going on here, and to put the whole matter in perspective, this is what we think."

To question the conduct of the member for Sudbury and ask for a release and all this garbage that people are saying, it's absolutely incredible. Here we have a member who is doing no more and no less than what you, sir, the member for Etobicoke West, and all of us do—we work it out.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would ask him not to suggest that I would be doing the same thing as the member for Sudbury stands accused of. That is unacceptable, in my opinion. I would not do it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): That is not a point of order. I can appreciate there is a difference of opinion, but you can only correct your own record.

Mr Stockwell: They can't even read their minds. How can they expect to read mine?

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Durham East has the floor.

Mr Mills: If I have touched a sensitive nerve with the member for Etobicoke West, I'll withdraw that.

Let's look at this whole report in some sort of perspective, as the ordinary man and woman on the street thinks about it. Here we have a very tired cabinet minister at a meeting, and a very angry, agitated woman who is bent on picking a political fight, a woman who undoubtedly, from what she did—called the *Globe and Mail*, called Harris, called everybody—is bent on making political hay. There's no doubt about it.

Here we have every attempt by the minister to contain this. She made a statement on the spot: "I'm sorry for what I did. It was wrong." She followed it up by a telephone call, "I apologize." She followed it up with a letter, "Look, this is in writing that I apologize." I think she made a very credible attempt to contain any damage that may have been done to the reputation of Dr Donahue.

As I sat through that hearing and listened to the evidence, it seemed to me there was a twisting tale of some sort of conspiracy. In deference to my colleagues who want to speak, there were many things and twists that indicated to me that somehow this whole episode had been orchestrated or in fact designed. It was designed not only to embarrass the Minister of Northern Development; it was designed to embarrass the NDP government as a whole, and when you take it in perspective, that's all it was.

This minister has not done anything, in my opinion, that contravenes the guidelines as set down by the Premier. She hasn't been involved in some phoney land deal; she hasn't taken advantage of her office. All she did was say something she shouldn't, and she apologized. I like to think that in society today—and I'm going to close—there's room in this House for everybody to examine themselves and say, "We can accept an apology." If we can't accept an apology when someone's done something wrong without causing all this kerfuffle, causing all this

money to be spent to find out exactly what we knew in December—the minister said: "I told a lie. What I said wasn't true," and we found that out, \$500,000 later, exactly to be.

We also found out that the minister had no access at all to any confidential information. We also found out that the member for Sudbury—who's gone now—also had no access to any confidential information. In fact, this whole episode is blown up so out of proportion, in my opinion as a humble, ordinary sort of citizen, that I just can't understand it.

1650

Mr Mahoney: We know that. We know you don't understand.

Mr Mills: The member for Mississauga West, I understand human behaviour, and surely to God there's a time we can recognize that.

I am going to close with a quotation from Oscar Wilde, and he says, "Where there is sorrow there is holy ground." I think the minister is truly sorry for what she did and her conduct should be accepted for what it was. We are all subject to mistakes. We are none of us perfect. When we become a parliamentary assistant or a minister, we don't suddenly put on a suit of armour. We're all different, we're all humans and we all make mistakes, but for the grace of God, some of us don't make mistakes that we're caught in.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much. Further debate on opposition motion 2. The honourable member for Renfrew North.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I want to take a few moments this afternoon to discuss the resolution standing in the name of my friend the opposition House leader, the member for Bruce.

I am always pleased to follow my friend from Durham, who is very interesting and I find a fair-minded individual. His reference to Oscar Wilde reminds me of something else Wilde once wrote, and in some way I think it is apropos. Wilde once observed, "It is useful to remember that all saints have a past and all sinners have a future." That might be a useful guide for this afternoon and perhaps for those of us in public life.

I want to take issue, however, with my friend from Durham when he characterizes this as he has and when he says, "You know, we're all just ordinary folks and we all make mistakes." That's true, and we are all ordinary folks to a point, but as elected members of the Legislature we accept a very important public trust that differentiates us from those men and women who sent us here. When we become members of the executive council, we do take on to ourselves a certain particular kind of armour.

I only ask my honourable friend to read the executive council oath. It couldn't be clearer that when my friend from Algoma becomes the honourable Minister of Natural Resources he is a different person than I am as a member of this Legislature. He is one of Her Majesty's advisers here in Ontario, and he has a very special title to make that point. He rightly has access to information the rest of us don't have, and that is a very special trust for which, at a certain level, he has emoluments that we sometimes joke

about. He has certain benefits that I accord him unstintingly, like the car and all of the other things—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): I don't have a car.

Mr Conway: He doesn't have a car. Most of his colleagues should or do. All those perks go with the office, but it's the office and the trust that are at issue here in this debate.

I submit to my friend opposite that ministers of the crown are not ordinary people. They should not forget where they came from, that they belong in a democratic political culture but they are not regular folk, if for no other reason than by virtue of the kind of information to which they have access.

Now we come to this situation, and I'm going to take a few moments this afternoon to talk about the so-called Martel affair. I hope I don't sound, as I sometimes do, a bit self-righteous and hectoring, because I appreciate the difficulties that these kinds of debates produce. In fact, I was thinking over the last couple of days where I could find a precedent for the Martel case, and no two cases in this category are ever alike. That's why trying to codify the conduct is so very challenging. I haven't really come up with anything that I think is in this category, but I was struck by the precedent—not the precedent, but I want just to briefly remind people of an event that happened in the Parliament of Canada about 27 years ago when the very elegant, the very urbane, the highly touted Maurice Lamontagne resigned from the Pearson cabinet.

Maurice Lamontagne resigned late in 1965 as one of the leading lights in the Pearson government, particularly from the province of Quebec, after a very distinguished career in public service and in academic circles at Laval University. Lamontagne had fought Maurice Duplessis when it was not easy to fight Duplessis. He had advised St Laurent in ways that were, I think, to his credit.

Maurice Lamontagne was a very distinguished public servant and politician. He entered Parliament, after a couple of unsuccessful bids, in 1963 from the Montreal riding of Outremont. He became Secretary of State and a year after he took that cabinet office he was in trouble. A year after the story broke, he resigned, I believe in November 1965.

Why did Maurice Lamontagne resign? He resigned because before he entered Parliament he'd made a rather sloppy arrangement, to say the least, in purchasing furniture for—I think it was—his home. It was a real scandal. Mr Diefenbaker said it was one of his favourite scandals. But I often think back to—

Hon Mr Wildman: He was a man who liked scandals.

Mr Conway: It's true Mr Diefenbaker liked scandals. Most opposition politicians like scandals because it shows the government to disadvantage.

But Maurice Lamontagne left the government of Canada, and he left, quite frankly, in some disrepute, because before he entered Parliament he had made sloppy arrangements in the purchase of furniture. It had nothing to do with the discharge of his ministerial responsibilities. It had

nothing to do with impropriety, as we were told. It appeared almost that this absent-minded professor, who could contemplate things like the Canada Council and who could fight Maurice Duplessis when a lot of other academics and politicians dared to do neither, couldn't arrange a sensible payment schedule for furniture he bought. One of the reasons Mr Diefenbaker could use this so effectively was that people could understand furniture, and in the end Mr Lamontagne resigned.

I'm going to recite very briefly what he said in his letter of resignation to Mr Pearson. He said that "as a member and as a minister I have fulfilled my responsibilities, without showing favouritism, direct or indirect, to anybody. This is for me an essential principle from which an honest politician ought not to depart. I did not depart from it. I have been criticized for a private transaction made before I entered Parliament, a transaction not tainted with any dishonesty. The subsequent controversy, which has been perpetrated for more than a year and which the general election"—of 1965—"did not stop, requires that I decide whether I can better serve my country at this time inside or outside cabinet. I have accordingly decided to submit my resignation."

He never recovered. He left Parliament and went to the Senate, where he performed—and I think still performs, if my memory serves me correctly—some very useful public service.

But what was the offence? The offence was twofold, I maintain. He could not conduct his domestic affairs in a way that seemed reasonable to the public, nor after a while did it appear reasonable to Parliament.

1700

That's where I want to bring this discussion back to. I heard the Minister of Health. She went on at some length about what the committee did not find, on whether the Teatero memorandum and its information found its way into Ms Martel's possession. I have to say that the committee was not able to determine that. The difficulty I have with some of what I heard, particularly from people like Deputy Minister Decter and the famous, the unforgettable Sue Colley, to name but two, is that I've been a cabinet minister. To believe what they told me—I have to believe it because this system is based on telling the truth and accepting what people say as the truth, because of course we are all honourable members, emphasis on honour.

Honourable people tell the truth. They cannot by definition lie, and of course if they do lie, as did Mr Profumo 30 years ago in the Mother of Parliaments, the course is absolutely clear. Of course there were other issues involved in the Profumo affair, but his cardinal offence was lying to Parliament. That could not be forgiven.

Mr Mills: To the Prime Minister.

Mr Conway: Yes, certainly to the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister is also responsible to Parliament. It's inconceivable that any honourable member or minister would lie, and that's what ended Mr Profumo's career. That is the point to which I want to return. There are two elements in the so-called Martel affair. There's the question of whether she accessed confidential information. That

will never be known. It could not be proven by the committee, and I submit that unabashedly. But there is still the more basic question, that the honourable minister admitted to lying.

Now, here is, I suppose, something of a reference back to the furniture scandal. The public understands, I think, that lying, particularly when it's confessed so openly by people in high office, is just not what people expect. They might understand that it goes on. I mean, we've had too much history over the decades. Who will ever forget the Watergate hearings, to hear at the end of the day what Mr Nixon said on those tapes as compared to what he was saying to the nation? It was very interesting.

I'll dredge up some other interesting history. David Lewis, in his wonderful memoir, *The Good Fight*, dredged up some fascinating documentation about just how much truth George Drew was telling this Legislature and the people of Ontario in the so-called Gestapo affair 50 years ago. Mr Lewis has made some devastating revelations in whatever chapter in his book deals with the credibility of the testimony of the then Premier of Ontario. Those are just two examples I could cite, and there are many more.

But the fundamental principle, it seems to me, is the principle of honour and trust that surely obligates all honourable members to tell the truth. When we, particularly in these circumstances, admit that in the heat of a moment, having an argument with an admittedly very challenging citizen—I mean Mrs Dodds, someone I know well—I saw the minister's itinerary that day in December 1991. I've had those kinds of days, and in the midst of those kinds of days I've met Mrs Dodds and been lacerated in a similar fashion. That does not excuse me from saying things that slander my opponent either in that conversation or hundreds of miles away in my home town, someone with whom I'm having an argument about the efficacy of public policy.

What people find incredible in this case is that we have a minister of the crown, someone whom we all know, and whom I've known longer than most people here—I've said before that I have a difficult time accepting the official line that the member for Sudbury East is a liar. That's the official line I have to accept. That violates a lot of my experience with that honourable member and her family. None the less, what we are being asked to accept is that it is somehow appropriate for a minister in this or any government, in the heat of battle about a very contentious subject, to fabricate, to attack in a slanderous way your opponent to win an argument—and pay no price for that. That is just not something people out there accept as very regular conduct from, I suggest, not just cabinet ministers, but particularly others associated with government.

I'm going to have to leave some time for my friend the member for York Centre to wrap this up, but I continue to be concerned that my friends opposite do not get the point.

There's an article here. I referred to it in the committee and I'm going to ask members to go and read it. It's June 18, 1991, by the legendary Michele Landsberg. Michele Landsberg—Mrs Stephen Lewis—in that article is going on about the involvement of some of our colleagues in the College of Physicians and Surgeons' case that was before

the House back in June. I don't want to get into that, but I found the article incredible, because here is a very bright lady who is not afraid to offer her opinions. She goes on, I think incredibly, saying that she just doesn't understand people who would attack the members of the cabinet who, in that case, intervened or sought to intervene with the quasi-judicial College of Physicians and Surgeons, because what that North Bay doctor did was so heinous.

I think most of us would agree with Ms Landsberg that what this doctor did was reprehensible, but in our due process we have, by act of this Legislature, delegated to the College of Physicians and Surgeons some very important powers to mete out justice in those cases on our and the public's behalf.

So when I read here that she says, "How can any member of the Legislature or any member of the press complain about what the members of the cabinet did in that case, because the offence was so heinous?" I want to say to Ms Landsberg and others in the new democracy, the heinousness of the offence is not the issue. The issue is whether or not we are going to play by the rules of due process we have legislated. If we don't like them, then obviously we are at liberty to change them. But if I don't like what the municipal board does on the motel strip case, or if I don't like what the court of appeal does on a case involving one of my constituents, at the present time I have no right, regardless of how heinous the crime, to phone Charlie Dubin and say, "Charlie, wake up and smell the coffee."

I just have to submit to my friends opposite that that is the issue. The members of the NDP, many of whom are from the social activist community—and I respect that—don't seem to understand that social activism is one thing, where one is allowed a range of conduct and activity. Being a member of the executive council is quite another, and there are things you simply cannot do, not just because Bob Rae's guidelines seem to make it obvious that lying and slandering is verboten, but that there is a mechanism to deal with a number of these situations and with the College of Physicians and Surgeons case. That's the case I want to make.

This is fundamentally about honour and trust. The concepts of honour and trust turn on the ancient notion that in British parliamentary democracies, responsible ministers and, I might add, honourable members will tell the truth. When they do not tell the truth they will pay a price, particularly when lying brings about the kinds of consequences the Martel lie has had upon an Ontario citizen who came forward, admittedly with vigour and with a point of view, to challenge and contest a major government policy.

1710

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Simcoe West.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to rise for a few moments and speak to the motion put forward by the Liberal Party. I should say at the outset that I will not be supporting the motion, primarily because I disagree with the last paragraph of that motion, which calls upon

the government to bring in codified sanctions and codified guidelines, I assume in the form of legislation, as it says in the motion. The point I would like to make there is that no amount of legislation will ensure that members will follow that legislation, will ensure that the Premier's guidelines will be followed and that a penalty will be paid for violation of those guidelines.

When I was an assistant in the latter days of Bill Davis's government here in Ontario, it seemed to me that life was simpler in those days. Premier Davis had a very simple rule and a very strict rule for his ministers: that you follow his guidelines. His guidelines were very simple: You could not do a number of the things that members of both the Liberal Party and the NDP have subsequently done. The penalty was very clear: You would be removed from office and removed from your responsibility as a cabinet minister immediately upon discovery of any breach of the guidelines. Life was simple. There were simple rules and everyone understood that the Premier alone enforced those rules.

No amount of legislation will make members accountable. In fact, legislation will work to the contrary. We have guidelines now that the Premier refuses to enforce. Legislation would simply allow future premiers and perhaps this Premier to use legislation as a crutch: to say that an arm's-length committee or an agency of the government will study whether a particular minister has violated the guidelines or the legislation. It will remove the personal responsibility the Premier has over his cabinet ministers.

The people of Ontario know that the Premier and the Premier alone appoints the members of the cabinet, the members of Her Majesty's advisers here in Ontario. Therefore, the Premier alone should have personal responsibility to see that their conduct is in line with the principle of ministerial responsibility and the principle of parliamentary democracy, as so eloquently outlined by the former speaker, the member for Renfrew North.

I find it sad when, during this debate, the member for Durham East, I assume speaking on behalf of average NDP caucus members, fails to understand the principle of ministerial responsibility. He admitted that in his own remarks. I think they fail to understand their accountability to the crown, their accountability to Her Majesty the Queen. The reason we take oaths to Her Majesty—and I raised this at the time the NDP moved to remove the reference to Her Majesty the Queen from the police oath—is very clear. I wish the NDP members understood it. We take oaths so that we will not serve ourselves.

We take oaths to Her Majesty, who represents all the people of this province of all ethnic backgrounds, religions, races and creeds. Her Majesty represents everyone and we take an oath to her as a symbolic gesture to assure people that we are not here to serve ourselves but to serve our constituents. We cannot, as the Premier suggests in his response to people who have sent us petitions and letters condemning him for his actions in removing the reference to Her Majesty the Queen from the police oath, swear allegiance to an inanimate object like our Constitution. That's the Premier's excuse.

Now police officers will swear to Canada. Canada is not a person. You can't swear an oath to an inanimate object. You must swear an oath to a monarch or to a person. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth is the Queen of Canada. I was very disturbed to receive a letter from a member of the NDP riding association in my riding recently telling me that he thought that Bob Rae was right. He interpreted the Premier's actions as understanding that the Queen was a foreign person and not the Queen of Canada. I simply wrote back saying: "You've simply misunderstood your citizenship in Canada. She is not a foreign person; she is the Queen."

Should we be surprised, when we relate that previous incident of removing the reference to Her Majesty the Queen, removing direct responsibility to the people of Ontario from ministers and members of the government and from police officers, that they didn't understand the implications of the Martel affair?

I want to spend just a couple of minutes speaking about the Martel affair.

Hon Mr Wildman: You're stretching things a little.

Mr Jim Wilson: No, I don't think I'm stretching things. The Minister of Natural Resources tells me I'm stretching things. It's not a leap of faith to understand these things. The member for Renfrew North did a better job than I did in speaking on ministerial responsibility, but the principle's there.

When I raised the point of privilege about the oath to the Queen I said to members of the Legislature and to the people of Ontario that it was the slippery slope; that it was clear these people don't understand in whose name they govern and why they are here in this chamber. It has been clear on a number of occasions that they neither take their responsibility as ministers seriously nor, often, do they take this chamber seriously. They have no respect for tradition and the oath to the Queen, and removing the Queen from the oath was absolutely the slippery slope.

Mr Mills: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I take quite an exception to being told that I have no respect for the Queen.

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry; that's not a point of order. It's a point of view.

Mr Jim Wilson: Mr Speaker, I'm sorry I hit a nerve, but I will move on to the Shelley Martel affair because I've remained silent to this point.

I went to school with Ms Martel. In fact, I dated Ms Martel off and on over three years. We both went to the University of Toronto and St Michael's College together. Like the member for Renfrew North, I knew her to be a better person—

Mr Kormos: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Ms Martel surely deserves an opportunity to defend herself against that most scurrilous allegation.

The Acting Speaker: That is definitely not a point of order.

Mr Jim Wilson: The simple language is that we were friends, we are friends, and the point I would like to make is that we took the same political science courses together.

We sat side by side in the lecture halls at the University of Toronto. We took, I remember specifically, courses on ministerial responsibility, on oaths, on allegiances, on Parliament. She comes from a family with a proud tradition: a father who, I understand, understood this place better than many members and served very distinguishedly over the years. As I think the member for Renfrew North so very well said during the Legislative committee hearings, for her not to offer her resignation to the Premier and for the Premier not to accept that, for her not to pay a price, to go to the penalty box for a few months for lying and slandering a Sudbury doctor, I think is a shame. I think it violates Ms Martel's own personal integrity, because I know that she knows what she did was wrong. I know that she knows the concept and the principle of ministerial responsibility. She knows that she was given the title "honourable" to designate her as a citizen of this province representing other citizens of the province as an adviser to Her Majesty the Queen in the council here in Ontario.

I also want to mention that I'm very familiar with Dr Donahue. On the evening of December 5 he picked me up from the airport in Sudbury. I suggest that had Ms Martel gone to the Sudbury and District Medical Society meeting that evening in Sudbury and not gone to Thunder Bay, she wouldn't be in trouble today.

We took the opportunity that evening in Sudbury to discuss Dr Donahue's case and, of course, the cap on doctors' billings. Had Ms Martel, I think, fully understood Dr Donahue's case as she claimed, she would not have said those things she said in Thunder Bay.

It was clear to me in speaking to Dr Donahue on December 5 that he had a very good case and very real concerns. I'm again really ashamed to be part of the same Legislature where a member from Durham East would again imply in this Legislature just a few minutes ago that Dr Donahue didn't have a good case and that this was all some large conspiracy to discredit the NDP government. I don't think that was the intent; that's certainly what did happen.

1720

Finally, I want to say that the importance of the Martel case and the importance really of today's motion, with the exception of the last paragraph, is that what happened in the Martel case reflects badly on all of us. My constituents would agree with the words of the member for Renfrew North that Miss Martel should have gone to the penalty box, that now our children will learn it's okay to lie and slander another citizen of this province as long as you can have some excuse and as long as you can take a number of steps to cover your tracks and try to come up with an elaborate excuse.

I say to the honourable members of the NDP that I hope they will take the time to read some of the literature the member for Renfrew North suggested all members should read that speaks of honour and trust, of their roles in government and of the understanding they should have of their role to serve all the citizens of this province.

Mr Kormos: There are a couple of things I want to talk about, all within the context of course of Mr Elston's

motion regarding conflict of interest. It's been an interesting day by all standards. I want to mention, again very much within the context of consideration of conflict of interest, that this morning in her radio interview the member for Niagara South in a mere nanosecond managed to destroy a reputation I had built up over a significant period of time. She referred to me as a puppy. I appreciate the affection inherent in that.

Interjection: Pit bull.

Mr Kormos: Quite right; I'm sure she meant a pit bull puppy, or at least a Rottweiler.

I noticed on several occasions that people made reference to the fact that Ms Coppen, the member for Niagara South, the whip, referred to me as a puppy, but she also said "Peter is great." You'll notice that's the comment that immediately follows the observation that "Peter's a puppy." If there's going to be commentary on Ms Coppen's comments, I wish the emphasis would be on the second one to the effect that I'm great rather than merely a puppy.

In terms of puppies, nobody was really upset about it, but for Charlie the beagle, who we talked about before, the one Joanne Bouchard takes care of and walks faithfully every day. I'm appreciative of that. Charlie is a puppy; I'm not. Ms Coppen will, I'm sure, take that under advisement.

Interestingly, conflict of interest is something I am intimately familiar with. I'm also intimately familiar with the process of being selected to be in cabinet and being among the chosen to be out of cabinet. I know that being an ex-minister in this government's cabinet is not rare any more, but you will note I was the first. I am very conscious of the fact that the Premier chooses to put people in cabinet, and that's his or her prerogative, as the case may be as history unfolds, and chooses to take people out of cabinet. About that there is really no democracy, and about that there is really no due process, and in my instance perhaps no justice.

People will know, and somebody will undoubtedly remark, if not in here, afterwards, that I may well have been a minister but it was for oh so brief a period of time; if people blinked, they missed it. There was debate. I participated in the debate, and my views about what are appropriate conflict-of-interest guidelines are different from those of some. I had been a partner in my law firm, the one I had started some decade ago. I had brought in a young partner when I was elected. In the course of complying with the guidelines, I divested myself of my interest in that law firm. It wasn't an easy exercise and it certainly was a costly one for me. I did that to comply with the conflict-of-interest guidelines that were imposed on me by virtue of having been selected by the Premier to be in his cabinet.

The operator of that firm now is Mark Evans, an incredibly effective young criminal lawyer at 683 King Street in Welland who is carrying on with that practice. Mark Evans has done an incredible job of taking care of the clientele that had stayed with me for a decade, and of cultivating his own clientele. I of course can no longer avail myself of any of the income from that firm, and that

was some significant loss, especially when I also lost the income from the ministry.

I've talked to a whole lot of people down in Welland-Thorold about what they perceive the issues to be, especially relating to conflict of interest, and I admit to listening to radio talk shows when I am in the car—my own car—on trips—my own trips, paid for by myself. I should mention this: I'm not sure there's any truth to the allegation about the whip providing trips for obedient members, because she certainly never mentioned it to me. I've not heard word of one trip and have never had an offer to participate in any trips. I just don't believe it could happen in the way it's been described, and that is to say that merely obedient members participate in so-called trips. One would think—I know this has got to be the case—that people who can best represent the interests of their caucus at a particular function, surely those are the people who are selected to represent their caucus at that particular function.

Take, for instance, the Canadian Parliamentary Association. Surely that isn't merely a perk to be given to somebody who has fallen into line, who reads from the hymn book at the right time and who happens to submit to the arbitrary whim of a whip or somebody in the whip's office. Surely that's not the case, because one would think that a representative at a Canadian Parliamentary Association function would be somebody who perhaps had previous experience with the same organization, had expressed a special interest or had a history of involvement in that particular activity.

I believe that's called merit, and one would think that in a government, in a caucus like ours, selection to participate in these events would be based on merit. I find it bizarre for anybody to propose that the whip chooses people arbitrarily to participate in these things, because to do that would be unfair, unjust and a denial of the very sorts of things that we as a government and a caucus believe we stand for.

Within the context, of course, of conflict of interest, I know there was one occasion, by God, one occasion—interestingly, because of the turnover around here—actually, I'm here for my second term now, and in view of all the neophyte tyros, all of whom have adapted quickly, I've been here not longer than all but longer than many, if not most, notwithstanding that I've been here a relatively short period of time. Once again, that reflects the turnover. In that period of time I've been on one trip.

That was as a member of the opposition. By God, could it be that the government of the day, the Liberals, was kinder to and more considerate of me than my own caucus was? I don't think so. Surely the whip's selection of participants in conferences, conventions and those types of activities is based on fairness and is distributed equitably among backbenchers, because indeed that is one of the things backbenchers can and should be doing.

I'm not averse to anybody ringing bells, but if we are to hear bells, they should be the chimes of fairness and openness and not the chimes of privilege and a bizarre form of—not quite nepotism but as close as you're going

to get to it without actually being related, without somebody actually being your mother.

My position then, as it is now, with respect to conflict is that disclosure—that's been spoken of already—is essential. I'm talking about disclosure of interest, disclosure of assets. All of us have engaged in that particular exercise. All of us have the opportunity to be completely candid about the extent of our assets; that is to say, not just to identify them but to identify and evaluate them, assess their value and let the public decide what the impact of those interests would be on our ability to decide issues fairly.

1730

I was part of a Legislative Assembly committee that conducted itself, at the insistence of the opposition, over a lengthy period of time, and that suffered, mind you, under rules that strangled the effectiveness of the committee and which were designed by the opposition and which we government members resisted and opposed, saying: "This has got to be an open process. We're not, and we can't, conduct this behind closed doors, in secret."

But the opposition, Liberals and Conservatives, insisted on secrecy, on operating behind closed doors and on maintaining the so-called confidentiality of transcripts so that the public would never really know the full story, the facts as we very much wanted people in this province to know them, the facts as I believe the subject of that inquiry very much wanted the people in this province to know them.

I listened carefully to my friend Gord Mills from Durham East. I know that's wrong, but that's what his wife calls him: Mr Mills. I know his wife calls him that, because I've been there while she's called him that. I listened to him return to his Sunday morning past and the sermon of the preacher, when the preacher related to Gord Mills and Mrs Mills and Gord Mills's family and the rest of the congregation that well-known story about Jesus and the sinner—

Mr Mills: The adulterous woman.

Mr Kormos: —the adulterous woman, whereupon Jesus said, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

I found that of interest, because it's one of many remarkable and enlightening pieces from that great book. But it's remarkable that Mr Mills's preacher would read that part of the Bible just before this debate was to take place and just when I have in my hands—of all people to stand in this House and wax indignant about conflicts. Would you believe it?

Back in December 1991, you know what was happening then, don't you? There was a by-election in the works down in Brant-Haldimand, the one in which, God bless him, Mr Eddy was eminently successful. He wiped the slate. It's unfortunate, though, that the member for Scarborough-Agincourt—Gerry Phillips, MPP, on his Legislative Assembly letterhead—would reproduce what appears to be campaign literature for Mr Eddy. It's remarkable that the member for Halton Centre—Barbara Sullivan, MPP, on her legislative letterhead—would open what appears to be a letter, "Dear friend," and then go on to engage in what

is nothing more than the most flagrant electioneering on behalf of one Mr Eddy.

Make no mistake about it: I am confident Mr Eddy didn't win the election because of Mr Phillips or Mrs Sullivan—no two ways about it; they're simply not enough of a factor in Brant-Haldimand—and I'm not in any way suggesting that Mr Eddy did anything wrong. But I suggest very much to you, Mr Speaker, that for these two Liberal members to abuse their position in this House, in this Legislative Assembly, to abuse the taxpayers' dollars they have received to fund and finance their Legislative Assembly offices and their constituency offices, to use those offices for partisan activity, is really an unconscionable abuse of their role in this House and an astounding and shocking revelation in the context of their attacks on a member of this caucus, a young woman who has served her riding and her province well and who has earned the admiration and respect of this caucus and this House and people across this province, and who I'm pleased to see carry on as an outstanding member of cabinet and an outstanding member of caucus and an outstanding member of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr Carr: I did want to add a couple of thoughts to the debate. I had the pleasure of sitting on the justice committee looking at conflict last February, I guess it was. I want to read a letter from a chap that I think says it better than anything else; I got it from my colleague here. It talks about Mr Rae: "I watched you in opposition and thought that here was a clean-cut young man of principle." I don't know where he was looking. "That of course was while you were in opposition. Now you are in power. The NDP has become a party of the big lie." That's a chap by the name of Mr Bill Moody, who I think said it best.

I was struck by the line in this particular motion that talks about integrity. I was flipping through to look at the throne speech we all had when we first came in here, page 3, and the number one thing the Premier was going to do was bring integrity back. I'll read it for those who can't remember: "My government's first challenge is to earn the trust and respect of the people of Ontario." I say, one year and a little bit later, that he has failed in that goal.

I'm reminded of what Alfred Adler said: "It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them." That's what this Premier did. In opposition, he started off the last campaign—and we all remember that—by calling David Peterson a liar, then proceeded to go out on the campaign trail. He got off the bus eight times a day and promised anybody anything they wanted to hear. And here's a Premier who talks about integrity? He knew he couldn't live up to those promises. Most of you on that side, I suspect, maybe did. But here's a guy who got off the bus eight times a day, promised anybody, anybody who was out there, anything they wanted to hear, and then he talks about integrity.

He goes on to say, "My government's integrity will be measured by the way this government is run and our relations with the people we serve." What kind of relations do you have with the doctors after what happened with the minister we've talked about so long here? What kind of

situation and relationship can you have when we see the abuse of power?

It goes on to say, "Our task is to guard against institutional arrogance and the abuse of power wherever they exist"—noble lines. I'm often struck by what is often said, that man does not live by words alone, despite the fact that he somehow has to eat them. This Premier has to eat the words that were so eloquently read on November 20 by the then Lieutenant Governor.

He talks about the abuse of power. During this period of government we've had more resignations and scandals than we have had bills passed in this Legislature. I sat on that committee while the Premier came in and talked about the conflict guidelines. We then had the Minister of Health come in, then we had the now Treasurer come in. The Minister of Natural Resources came in and did a fine speech about being in government. They all said we have to bring integrity back to government. One year and virtually a few months later, we are farther and farther behind in terms of integrity because of this government and its actions.

This is a government that since it's been elected has bounced from scandal to scandal to scandal. We have had resignations, and I can go through the list: the member for Ottawa Centre; the member who just spoke, when he was minister for—the member for Welland-Thorold. We had the member for Dovercourt and the members for Kitchener, Riverdale, Cambridge, Sudbury, St Andrew-St Patrick, Scarborough East and Scarborough West. The member for Mississauga West went through some of the details of some of the scandals. Some of them were more serious than others; some of them were rather simple.

1740

The situation with the member for Welland-Thorold, who just appeared wearing his now-famous braces, certainly wasn't a scandal. What was the scandal was that the Premier of this province would throw somebody out for doing that. At the same time he will allow the minister to remain after she did what she did to the doctor up in Thunder Bay.

On page 4 of that same document, the Premier—because, let's face it, these are the Premier's words—"We must create a greater sense of integrity in the work of government." That's what he said he was going to do: "We must create a greater sense of integrity in the work of government." I say to this Premier, as a result of your actions you've had far less integrity than any other Premier who has stood in that particular place and represented the people as Premier of Ontario.

He sat there and talked about integrity. At the same time we have seen what has gone on during the last year and a bit. Here's the same Premier who has taken his policies and driven out the private sector in housing and the private sector in day care and he says that we are going to judge our actions on how we run and our relationship with the people we serve. We saw very clearly how they believe the people should be served. If the cause is right, do whatever you have to do to get your point across, because integrity doesn't matter. The bottom line is, in the end the results are what happen.

I guess it was Winston Churchill who said that the price of greatness is responsibility. This Premier's responsibility was to act on the guidelines he said he was going to enforce and to act upon the fine words that were in this throne speech.

I know there are some other members who have now come in who want to speak and I said I would leave them some time. I had quite a bit more material. The beginning of this particular resolution, I think, talks very clearly about what needs to be done. We all know that politicians at all levels and of all political stripes are not held in high esteem today. I say to this Premier that your actions have done far more to destroy the integrity of government in about 19 months than has ever been done by any other Premier in history since I've been following it, and I realize I haven't been around that long.

If we're going to bring some integrity back, what we need to do is enforce the rules and the guidelines and that's what it's all about. You have to have the political courage to somehow sometimes make the tough decisions—not the easy decisions like you did with the member for Welland-Thorold, because they didn't like each other and didn't get along, so "I'm going to toss him out." That would be very easy to do when you dislike each other like they do. It would have been tough to stand up with the integrity to do what needed to be done with the minister over what has now been referred to as the Martel affair. Those would have been the tough choices because of the long close ties, but this Premier has taken the easy way out and the integrity of everybody in this House is suffering. We are going to have to work long and hard to get that integrity back, because every time we take one step forward we are taking two steps back when the Premier of Ontario does what he has done over the last 19 months.

I'm afraid I'm going to have to wrap up on some of my comments, but I will close by just saying that this particular Premier is going to be measured—and the direct quote is, "The measure of the man is what he does when he is in power"—very severely by the people, because the integrity of all of the people in this Legislature is lower as a direct result of this Premier.

I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words and I will pass the speaking over to the member for Markham, who I believe is next.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Further debate?

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This is an interesting day. Woeful to see what has happened in such a short duration with the New Democrats. We now have a roll call of cabinet ministers and senior people—Zanana Akande, Peter Kormos, Will Ferguson, Evelyn Gigantes, Shelley Martel—and the most recent case, that of Miss Martel, as we are considering it under this opposition motion, is that indeed she did display very poor judgement and really jeopardized her own credibility and that of her government for time to come.

As well, we see something else that's rather disappointing, and that is the poor judgement of the Premier, who prior to achieving office had such high standards that he invoked on everybody else and now has also displayed

poor judgement. The inquiry that has just been concluded really shows that it could all happen again. The standards that were once esteemed and looked up to have been abandoned, and people now have reason to believe that politicians are not worthy of trust.

That's the roll-call and the circumstances around the New Democrats, but let's remember the hall of shame of the Liberals. The Liberal record really has a long list as well. They were in office a little longer. The New Democrats have accelerated the process, but Christine Hart—these names should evoke some kind of emotion in those who were left of the Liberals after September 6, 1990—Elvio DelZotto, director of the Ontario Arts Council, on June 26, 1989, resigned; Gordon Ashworth, the executive director of the Office of the Premier, on June 22, 1989, resigned; Patti Starr, chair of Ontario Place, on June 8, 1989, resigned; Joan Smith, Solicitor General, on June 5, 1989, resigned; Raj Anand, chief of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, on June 2, 1989, resigned; Ken Keyes, Solicitor General, on December 4, 1986, resigned; René Fontaine, re-elected after it all happened, but on June 26, 1986, resigned; Elinor Caplan, resigned on June 16 from Management Board; Ross McGregor, provincial Liberal chair, not in government, but none the less resigned in October 1985.

So when we come along and say, "What's gone wrong?" I just have to say there's a lot in common between the Liberals and the New Democrats. Mr Peterson and Mr Rae have all the rules you'd ever want to have, but both of them knew how to break them and know how to break them. Both of them stepped back from what happened, washed their hands and were so sanctimonious, and there they are setting themselves up for another fall. What I end up seeing is—

Interjections.

Mr Cousens: I think I've touched a chord.

The Speaker: You've certainly caught our attention.

Mr Cousens: The time is precious, and I certainly wouldn't want to interrupt other honourable members as they are doing to me. It's just obvious that there is so much in common between the Liberals and the New Democrats. They can set out all the legislation they want, but if they're not going to follow it and support it in the spirit and will, then there's something seriously the matter. There was a day when we didn't have legislation and conflict-of-interest guidelines; now you've got it and now you have something to break.

Both the Liberals and the New Democrats have not faced up to the issue of senior staff and deputy ministers who are not under any conflict-of-interest guidelines. Why? Why didn't the Liberals face up to that? We said to them when they were in power, "Do something about it." But they haven't; they've come along today and said, "Well, we'll go after you guys." Why don't you do a little bit of mea culpa, mea culpa? There isn't anyone in this House who shouldn't take hold of himself and say: "Hey, we have a responsibility to the people. Let's not let them down." These guys need a little lesson in penance; maybe

they're getting it. A little longer will do them good. You guys will get your penance 1,400 days from now.

The Speaker: Further debate?

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): We find ourselves in an unfortunate situation today where a member of the Liberal caucus had to bring forth this item for debate when already, during the term of office of this government and during the deliberations of the standing committee on administration of justice, we did have recommendations from a committee of this government, and we had a minority report from our party with regard to the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, 1988.

So I say to my colleague who has brought in this opposition day motion that indeed we do agree that the conflict-of-interest act we are subjected to here should in fact be amended.

I have two things to say with regard to conduct of ministers of the crown. I won't be supporting this resolution today because I don't think you can legislate conduct. I think it's something we learn. There are standards we've set for ourselves. I think it's the kind of behaviour we either teach our children or the examples we set for others. I don't think any piece of legislation could help any of us when it comes to our conduct, but we want to know what the law is, and we have one. Members of the cabinet want to know what the Premier's guidelines are, and in fact we have those.

1750

The other part of my colleague's motion today talks about sanctions for any violations. I stand in the House today to say that with regard to a minister of the crown of the province of Ontario, I believe there is only one sanction: that he or she resign. I don't think there are alternatives to that.

I have been in this House for four years. I have seen very inconsistent applications of Premier's guidelines, not only the present Premier of this government but the former Premier. What is missing in this House, and perhaps in the work we do inside or outside this assembly, is both the political will in here and sometimes the managerial will outside this place to follow the rules we set for ourselves.

In response to the member for Markham, my colleague, he has already named the Liberal ministers. We all know who they are. We ourselves could probably go back and name some Tories. Unfortunately that's not what we're talking about today, but I do think we're talking about improving the conduct in this place and about the real desire on behalf of the public to see some standards.

I will finish by quoting the Premier of December. As he introduced his guidelines on December 12, 1990, this Premier—Bob Rae—said: "These guidelines do not replace the existing standards...but extend and strengthen them. I consider it essential to establish certain fundamental principles. It is to be our governing principle that we must at all times act in a manner that will not only bear the closest public scrutiny but will go further and ensure public confidence and trust in the integrity of the government."

This Premier has not in fact enforced his own guidelines. We've been subjected, as has the public, to many

deviations from them. I'm sorry we have to stand here and say this today.

The Speaker: Further debate? The member for Algoma.

Hon Mr Wildman: In the brief time left I'd like to make a couple of comments as a minister and as a member who's served in this House for 17 years.

I am disappointed in the debate, because with only a couple of exceptions members on all sides—and I include my own caucus as well as the other two caucuses—have used the opportunity of this debate to do what we do so often in this House and engage in political one-upmanship. Rather than dealing with a very serious issue that has been an issue for as long as I've been a member of this House, an issue for the Conservative Party and the Conservative government prior to my being elected in this House—I could list, as other members have done—one in particular—names of members of this House; members of governments who have had experience and difficulties with conflict of interest. I could list some Conservative members. I don't think that's what this debate was about. This debate was supposed to be about a resolution brought before the House in relation to how we deal with very difficult issues.

All of us agree, I think, in this House that not one of us—no member of the Legislature—and particularly not members of the government bench, should profit personally, or their friends or their family, from their positions in the assembly. Also, we recognize that not one of us should gain any kind of advantage—not just monetary advantage but any kind of advantage—because of our position; neither should our acquaintances or friends.

What is of significant importance to all of us in this House, I hope, is how we deal with the question of perceived or real breach of trust. That is a very difficult issue and one that Premiers, from Premier Davis through Premier Peterson and now Premier Rae, have attempted to deal with. It is not easy. However the rules have been drafted in three different successive administrations, there have been difficulties with them.

I thought the motion brought forward here was an attempt to look at how we might change them. I must say I do not support the "therefore." I have differences of opinion with a number of the "whereases," but the importance in this resolution is the "therefore," that we "introduce specific legislation regulating conflict of interest and conduct of ministers of the crown, including clear and enforceable sanctions for any violations."

I don't think this deals with the problem. The problem is how do we as legislators, as members of government, ensure that our position of trust is maintained, whether we be New Democrats, Liberals or Conservatives.

I understand it is the role of the opposition—I served in opposition for 15 years—to look for malfeasance, to criticize, to look for incompetence, to look for inconsistency. It is also the responsibility of the opposition to provide constructive criticism. I don't think it is appropriate or constructive to have members stand in their place and list all the foibles or difficulties other members have experienced. I was here for the very difficult situation facing one of my

colleagues from the north and I expressed my opinion, as a member of the opposition, in support of him.

I don't support this resolution, but I must say it's not for that reason that I am disappointed in this debate.

The Speaker: The member for York Centre, to wrap up the debate.

Mr Sorbara: In the very brief time remaining, I simply want to say to my colleagues in this Legislature that there is really only one issue and one issue alone before us in this debate, which we are going to be asked to vote on in just a very few moments; that is, shall this Legislature maintain the high standards that have governed the conduct of ministers, MPPs and parliamentary assistants over the 125-year history of this Legislature, or shall we now amend those standards, change them, degrade them and lower them by saying that we as a Legislature condone the conduct of a minister, even when that minister is driven in the heat of political battle, to slander a member of the public and lie to the public? That is the one issue that we—and I say to my colleagues that you—are voting on.

I ask you to think beyond your party discipline and beyond the wishes of your whip, and support this resolution so that the standards our predecessors have established can be the standards those who succeed us will live by when they sit in this Legislature.

1804

The House divided on Mr Elston's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes—29

Bradley, Brown, Conway, Cordiano, Curling, Daigeler, Eddy, Elston, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Henderson, Mahoney, Mancini, McClelland, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Morin, Murdoch (Grey), O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Scott, Sola, Sorbara, Stockwell.

Nays—61

Allen, Arnott, Buchanan, Carr, Carter, Charlton, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Cousens, Cunningham, Dadamo, Duignan, Farnan, Ferguson, Frankford, Gigantes, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Kormos, Lankin, Lessard; Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Rae, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Turnbull, Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessenger, Wildman, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

The House adjourned at 1808.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth
Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative, vice-président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative,
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative,
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des Comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce

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St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
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Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
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Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
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York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini, Kimble Sutherland
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CONTENTS

Tuesday 28 April 1992

Members' statements	
Seniors games	391
Mr Mahoney	
Art Gallery of Ontario	391
Mrs Marland	
Volunteers	391
Mr Winninger	
Armenian genocide	391
Mrs Caplan	
Hospital financing	392
Mr Murdoch	
Member's mailing	392
Ms Haeck	
Members' conduct	392
Ms Poole	
Canada 125 Ribbon Round-Up ...	392
Mrs Witmer	
Independence '92	393
Mr Malkowski	
Resignation of First Deputy Chair ..	393
The Speaker	

Statements by the ministry	
York City Centre	393
Mrs Grier	

Responses	
York City Centre	
Mr Sorbara	393
Mrs Caplan	394
Mr Stockwell	394
Mr Cousens	395
Day of mourning	395
Mr Mackenzie	
Mr Offer	
Mrs Witmer	

Oral questions	
Transfer payments	396
Mr Phillips	
Mr Rae	

Ministerial conduct	397
Mr Sorbara	
Mr Rae	
Budget	398
Mr Harris	
Mr Rae	
Ministerial conduct	399
Mr Eves	
Mr Rae	
Government spending	399
Mrs Caplan	
Mr Rae	
Etobicoke waterfront development ..	400
Mr Stockwell	
Mr Cooke	
Grey water	401
Mr Waters	
Mrs Grier	
Arts and cultural funding	401
Mr Callahan	
Mrs Haslam	
Wine industry	402
Mr Villeneuve	
Ms Churley	
Highway widening	402
Mr Wiseman	
Mr Pouliot	
Occupational health and safety ...	403
Mr Offer	
Mr Mackenzie	
Regional government restructuring ..	403
Mr Murdoch	
Mr North	
Ontario Training and Adjustment Board	403
Mr Sutherland	
Mr Allen	
Ontario Hydro contract	404
Mr McGuinty	
Mr Charlton	

Motions	
Private members' public business ..	404
Mr Cooke	
Agreed to	404
Mr Cooke	
Agreed to	404

Petitions	
French-language services	404
Mr Murdoch	
Parking fees	405
Mrs MacKinnon	
Rent regulation	405
Mr Sola	
Taxation	405
Mr Sola	
French-language services	406
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	
Constitutional reform	406
Mr Ramsay	
Taxation	406
Mrs Witmer	
Labour legislation	406
Mrs Witmer	
French-language services	406
Mr Runciman	
Mr Jordan	
Mr Murdoch	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	
Mr Murdoch	

Opposition day	
Conflict of interest and conduct of ministers	407
Mr Sorbara	408
Mr Harnick	409
Ms Lankin	410
Mr Mahoney	412
Mr Tilson	414
Mr Mills	415
Mr Conway	417
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	419
Mr Kormos	421
Mr Carr	423
Mr Cousens	424
Mrs Cunningham	425
Mr Wildman	425
Negated	426



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 29 April 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mercredi 29 avril 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

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Effective with the opening of the Second Session of the 35th Parliament, Hansard issues and pages are numbered according to session, rather than calendar year as before. Committee reports likewise are numbered from the first sitting of each committee in this parliamentary session.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 29 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): As you know, Mr Speaker, and as members will be aware, this week is National Consumers Week. Two years ago my colleague Gregory Sorbara released a draft bill creating a new consumer and business practices code. This bill was designed to protect vulnerable consumers in all transactions. This government, for all its talk, has allowed this bill to gather dust for the last two years.

If the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and now of casino gambling, believes this task is too overwhelming for her to tackle all at once, perhaps she will be able to begin by looking into an apparent discrepancy in the way credit charges are calculated in Ontario as compared to other provinces. A number of my constituents have brought this matter to my attention.

In Ontario, unless the entire amount of the credit is paid, interest is calculated on the full amount owed. It appears that in at least one other province the consumer is only charged interest on the remaining balance. For the average working person in this province in these tough economic times, the difference could be quite significant. Will the minister responsible undertake to look into this and will she then take some action to help the consumer for a change?

RESONANCE LTD

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I rise today on a positive note to inform my colleagues and citizens across Ontario of a great business success story in my riding of Simcoe West. Like most success stories, Resonance Ltd has made its mark in the space industry with a tremendous amount of struggle and through the uncommon dedication of its eight employees. Owned and operated by Bill and Molly Morrow, Resonance Ltd has become recognized around the world for its innovative contributions to the space industry.

In the past five years, Resonance Ltd has played a key role in assisting almost every major US space project. Its technological instruments have contributed to the Star Wars strategic defence initiative, to the multibillion-dollar space station which is slated to be launched later this decade and to the Hubble telescope recovery plan.

Resonance Ltd has received high praise for the lamps it sold to US jet propulsion laboratories. These light sources will assist the Hubble telescope to snap pictures and to take a breathtaking look back at the beginning of our universe. Resonance Ltd is also aiding Japan's efforts to enter the space race by providing high-tech equipment for three recent Japanese rocket launches.

I know that all members share my enthusiasm and pride for the extraordinary work being done by Resonance Ltd in Alliston. Through hard work and commitment, Bill and Molly Morrow have put Alliston on the space technology map and have provided this country with a blueprint for high-tech research and development success.

CONTROL OF COSTS

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I rise with a statement in regard to some of the things that have been happening within the riding of Cochrane South in regard to the building of partnerships. As you know, one of the main thrusts of this government is to bring partners together from various issues in regard to dealing with the hard times that we face today. It's been a long trudge, I would say. We have had to bring together workers within various institutions across the riding as well as people within management who quite frankly up until now have not had to sit down together to really try to work at some of the problems and try to find some practical solutions.

I am pleased to say that within the hospital sector, Bingham Memorial started the year with a fairly significant deficit for that size of hospital. But through the partnerships that were created by the leadership of both the union in that particular institution and the hospital itself, and the care and compassion, I think, of the people within those institutions to make the system work, they managed to bring down the deficit considerably and actually to bring in a balanced budget for next year. I should say that was all done without any job loss.

I can also report to the House that one of the school boards in my riding as well has gone through the same process, and through the building of partnerships and of cost-control committees was able to find \$660,000 worth of savings within its budget, which meant they didn't have to go and hack and slash within the system the people who are necessary for delivering the education necessary to the students inside the system.

I think that partnerships are important. They are often difficult to foster because the big problem is often that people are always resistant to change. But when they see that the system does work, that change is possible, they do respond.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES SERVICES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

M. Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa-Est) : The French Language Services Act was unanimously passed by this House in 1986. The act guarantees francophones the right to receive provincial government services in French in designated areas of this province. Recently, as a result of the act, French-language highway signs have begun to appear in sections of provincial highways within designated areas. The signs have not been well received. This saddens me.

Je voudrais mettre cette situation en perspective. Aujourd'hui, notre pays fait face à une énorme crise

constitutionnelle. L'avenir du pays est en question. Ne vaudrait-il pas mieux concentrer tous nos efforts et toutes nos énergies à renouveler le fédéralisme au lieu de critiquer l'apparition des panneaux de circulation ? Ces critiques n'ajoutent absolument rien aux discussions sur l'avenir du Canada. Plutôt, ils détruisent le sentiment de coopération qui est essentiel en ce moment.

Après tout, qu'est-ce qu'un panneau de circulation lorsque la désintégration de ce pays est en jeu ?

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES CENTRE

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the closing of the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital Community Health Services Centre at Mohawk Gardens Public School in my riding.

The Mohawk centre has been considered a pioneer in community-based health care. The 10-year-old outpatient clinic provides occupational therapy and physiotherapy in a program for hundreds of patients. Except for this program, most of the people would otherwise be in a hospital.

At a time when we are moving to a more community-based health care system, this government is closing community-based rehabilitation centres like Mohawk. Cuts are being made on an ad hoc basis out of fiscal necessity. Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital was forced to make this decision to discontinue the program because of provincial funding cutbacks.

What is desperately needed is a long-term plan to ensure universal access for all of the people of Burlington and Ontario. I call on the Minister of Health to initiate such a plan, and I further call on the minister to meet with the Committee to Save Mohawk Rehabilitation Centre and to find a solution that will provide for the needs of people who depend so much on the programs available at Mohawk Gardens rehabilitation centre.

1340

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): For the past six years, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, with the assistance of Volunteer Ontario, has been honouring volunteers, part of the backbone of the social services agencies right across this province, with the Community Service Awards.

I am pleased to announce on behalf of the minister, the Honourable Marion Boyd, that beginning this year the minister will also recognize young people, 21 years of age and under, who have been nominated by their peers for their outstanding community services. This is a new award for youth community service.

Traditionally, each year one person is selected from the community service recipients to receive the minister's Volunteer of the Year award. This year that list has been extended to include the recipients of the Youth Community Service Award.

I am delighted to be able to introduce the Volunteer of the Year for 1991, Toula Kourgiantakis. Toula represents all those selfless volunteers, young and old, who work tirelessly and are committed to improving the quality of

life for themselves and for others in the community, regardless of the time commitment for themselves.

Toula is truly an amazing young person. She's just completed her honours bachelor's degree at York University and is currently working on her master's in child psychology. She's paying her own way by having two part-time jobs. The amazing part of this is that she performs no fewer than six volunteer roles with child and family services in York region.

For the past two years, Toula has been a leader of two evening children's activity groups. She's a special friend and role model to a little 12-year-old girl who has suffered abuse. As a volunteer escort, Toula has in her spare time driven children to appointments whenever needed.

ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE PUBLIQUE CHARLEBOIS

M. Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa-Sud) : J'ai rencontré des représentants de l'Union des parents de l'école secondaire publique Charlebois, soit le groupe de parents représentant l'école secondaire Charlebois qui est située dans ma circonscription d'Ottawa-Sud.

Cette école, gérée par le secteur public du Conseil scolaire de langue française d'Ottawa-Carleton, devra être transférée le 1^{er} août 1993 au Conseil des écoles séparées d'Ottawa.

Charlebois est considérée par plusieurs comme le joyau des écoles secondaires francophones en Ontario. Les programmes et l'équipement spécialisé qu'elle met à la disposition de ses élèves sont des modèles du genre. Un grand nombre de ses programmes et une grande partie de son équipement ont été obtenus grâce aux efforts assidus des parents.

Mes commettants étaient naturellement fort déçus d'apprendre la disparition de leur école secondaire et ils veulent à tout prix que le ministre de l'Éducation leur fournisse l'assurance qu'eux-mêmes et leurs enfants ne seront en aucune façon désavantagés suite au déménagement de leur école.

L'Union des parents de l'école secondaire publique Charlebois est, on le comprend très bien, très préoccupée à propos de l'avenir de l'école Charlebois. Je tiens à ce que cette transition d'un édifice à un autre, transition qui a été imposée aux étudiants, aux parents et au personnel de l'école Charlebois, se fasse de manière adéquate.

J'accorde mon appui entier à l'Union des parents de l'école secondaire Charlebois et je demande au ministre de l'Éducation de faire de même.

TAXATION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Many of my constituents in York Mills, like so many communities, are hurting with the effects of this recession. They are suffering from job loss or reduced income, and they do not have extra money to pay higher taxes.

Ontario is already the highest-taxed jurisdiction in all of North America, and the latest budgets, with the accompanying tax increases from the three levels of local government, only compound the problem.

The whole government bureaucracy is continuing to grow, health and welfare costs are spiralling, and the debt

charges on last year's record deficit continue to cost valuable tax dollars. Unfortunately there's only one source of money: the pockets of the taxpayer. Many of my constituents are frightened; they have no more capacity to absorb tax increases and are near the breaking point. New taxes will mean real hardship for many families in York Mills. That's not fair or right. Taxpayers cannot continue to fund the orgy of spending that governments are in.

All governments must have the courage to control their spending and cut back. Tax cuts, not tax increases, are the only way to stimulate the economy and assist those hurt by the recession. Treasurer, stop squeezing my constituents, resist the easy way of increasing taxes and instead control your runaway spending habits.

MASTICO INDUSTRIES LTD

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): It is with pleasure today that I rise to inform the House that last Friday, with my colleague the member for Norfolk, I was able to make a presentation to a local industry on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment. A local company, an auto parts supplier, Mastico Industries Ltd, was awarded a grant of approximately \$370,000 under the waste diversion program. Up until this point Mastico has been the number one producer of garbage in the riding of Oxford. Through this grant they will be developing technology so that they can continue to recycle the products they use. Currently they already use excess fibres from the textile industry in the production of their sound-deadening parts to go in automobile mini-vans.

Mastico has been a very successful company. It has contracts with all the major North American auto industries and Japanese companies. Through this grant and the development of this technology they will be supporting government initiatives in terms of green industries. This will help make the company more competitive. There may even be some technology that will be developed that the company will be able to export. I know my colleague the member for Norfolk and myself see this as another prime example as to how the government is working with industry to make it more competitive and building new industries, greener industries.

1350

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Mr Speaker, I wonder if I might have unanimous consent to make a statement about Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Is there unanimous consent? Agreed.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Tonight at sundown, Jews around the world will be lighting memorial candles to observe Holocaust Memorial Day. I might tell you that I stand often in this Legislature, generally without being nervous, without being concerned. But this is a statement that I find very difficult to make. I tell you that because I and my family were not Holocaust survivors: I wasn't born during the period of the Holocaust; my ancestors, my family, were in Canada and safe. It's almost impossible for me to adequately express the fact that six

million Jews were annihilated from virtually every town, village and city in eastern Europe.

The reason that I feel compelled to stand here today is because I'm among friends. In spite of our political differences I'm among what I consider to be the community leaders in Ontario. It's because of this that I want to convey the message that we must never forget. I want to convey to all of my friends the significance of tonight and tomorrow. I want you, as friends, to go back and convey some of my thoughts to the people in your communities.

The themes of this day are considerable. One of them is the importance of having the memory of the Holocaust written and recorded and to remember we're coming to the end of a generation, a very small number of people, who are true survivors, who were there and who survived. It's going to be very difficult to convey to future generations what happened in eastern Europe during the Second World War.

The other theme I wish to touch on is the idea of forgiving. It's a terrible dilemma when you feel you can't forgive, because if we forgive what happened, in all likelihood we're going to forget. If we forgive, we'll start to overlook things in our own country we recognize we must stop: the spread of hate literature, defaming remarks written on the side of a synagogue, or even the fact that we might have teachers who spread that kind of gospel and are teaching our children. So as much as I'd like to forgive, I don't believe I can.

The other and final comment I wish to make is that out of the ashes of eastern Europe the State of Israel was born. The State of Israel really in many respects represents the conclusion and maybe the rebirth of the Jewish people. I think we all recognize the importance of the State of Israel. We all recognize what that state stands for, and sometimes we're apt to be critical of the policies of that country that we may not like when we read them because they're in the Toronto Star or in the Globe and Mail or because there's a bad editorial, an editorial that is critical of that state. But I think when we read and hear those kinds of things we have to remember why the State of Israel exists and what that state stands for and that out of the ashes of eastern Europe there is something positive for the Jewish people.

That is why I rise today, and I tell all members that I will be at the Holocaust memorial, which incidentally is located in my riding, tomorrow for a memorial service at 10:30. I invite any members who are interested to join me there.

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Human Rights, Disability Issues, Seniors' Issues and Race Relations): I stand on behalf of the government of Ontario and share with my colleagues across the floor the fact that we are among friends and among people who want to share in this particular day. This evening is a very significant day: Yom Hashoah. Just for some of the members in this House, because we often do not recall the history of why these days are so significant and important, I would just like to make a few comments about this particular day.

It was on April 30 in 1943 that the Jewish citizens in the Warsaw ghetto, although they were sick and they were

starving and they were certainly beleaguered and had very little hope, stood up against their Nazi oppressors, and for 42 days they stood their place. They fought and they tried: They tried to protect themselves and to not face what was going to eventually happen. Unfortunately history reminds us that they did not win their day and they were gathered up and most of them were sent to Treblinka. But they showed us a strength, a heroism, a sort of bravery many of us probably will never understand because, as my honourable colleague said, we did not face that type of oppression here in Canada. We can only try to feel and think how they must have felt and the experience they were going through.

There was a little girl who wrote a poem, a young Jewish girl, when she was imprisoned in the ghetto, and I'd just like to read this poem to you because when I read it I really felt, and I think all of us will here as well. Her name was Franta Bass, and she wrote:

"A little garden,
Fragrant and full of roses.
The path is narrow
And a little boy walks along it.
A little boy, a sweet boy,
Like that growing blossom.
When the blossom comes to bloom,
The little boy will be no more."

It's hard to imagine how that little girl must have felt, and if we can put ourselves in that place it must have been very difficult for all of the people there.

We must learn by our history. We must learn by what has happened and the events. Today we often see hate literature; we see people espousing words and phrases that have no place in this Ontario. In our Ontario we want to have a place where we live harmoniously and we are all treated equally and fairly. I think all of us in this House must share that responsibility, and I know, in speaking to my colleagues, we do. We do share that responsibility, but we must make sure we end all forms of racism and all forms of discrimination so that events like this never recur, that they never, ever happen again to any peoples. We must not let people who do have hatred and forms of hatred keep on expressing that hatred. I know you all share with me, and we all share together, that responsibility, and as leaders in our community we must go out, as my colleague said, and make sure we end any form of racism or discrimination.

There's always a phrase that is used at this point in time when we talk about these situations, and it's a very simple phrase: Never again. I hope we will all take that message: that never again will we see this form of holocaust or see this ever, ever again happen anywhere in the world.

Tomorrow I will be travelling to Ottawa to open up the Anne Frank exhibit that is being hosted in the Canadian War Museum, and I hope that in this space of time all my colleagues will get an opportunity to visit that exhibit. I know it will be a very emotional evening, and I know we will all feel very sad. However, we must keep remembering; we must not let these memories pass so that again this will happen. I know we all will go forth into our ridings

and share these sentiments with all of our friends and all of our colleagues and all of our constituents. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share the remarks of our government.

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): As I did last year, I rise today to add my comments to a memorial that has a worldwide interest and concern. Last year, you'll remember, I talked about Babi Yar, a small park outside of Kiev where hundreds of thousands of Jews and non-Jews were herded and told they were going to be moved to safe quarters and instead were slaughtered and buried on that spot. This year we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of Babi Yar. As has already been mentioned, this is the 49th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, where thousands of Jews lasted for 42 days before they were annihilated.

We have a situation where, unfortunately, people are questioning the Holocaust. People are saying: "Why pursue these people who are responsible? That is ancient history. It's no longer of any concern to us."

I just returned yesterday from the Soviet Union, and it was quite interesting because there's a case there where the newspapers were talking about someone who was responsible for the most atrocious actions, and there were comments in the paper: "Why are we tormenting these old people? Why are we pursuing these people? That's gone, it's forgotten. Forget about it. Let's have a new slate. Let us be concerned about what is happening, not what has been."

There have been people through this terrible period in our history, people like Raoul Wallenberg, a non-Jew who went out of his way to try and save as many of the Jewish people as he could. He has been honoured by Canada. He is the only honorary citizen Canada has ever made. All of us have heard the story of Anne Frank and the family that kept her and her family safe until unfortunately she too was discovered and executed. These are stories of a total culture, a total people. It wasn't just Jews. There were six million Jews, but there were millions of other people annihilated in the same way. So the message will come every year. It is known as Yom Hashoah. It is the message the Jews will always remember so that the world will never forget.

1400

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

EDUCATION REFORM

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): It's quite humbling to stand and make a statement after the comments made by my colleagues on the occasion of this day.

I would like to inform members today of steps I am taking to direct the reform and restructuring of education in Ontario. Our government's speech from the throne pointed to education reform as an important part of the government's plans to invest in our province's greatest strength, our people.

Education reform means significant improvements in what we teach and how we teach. It means reshaping our education system so we can meet the needs of all our

young people and prepare them to meet the challenges of a diverse society, a changing economy and an interdependent world. It means moving towards more cooperative and cost-effective approaches to the delivery of education programs and services.

Education reform proceeds from this government's commitment to excellence, equity, accountability and partnership. The issue now is how to channel all of the initiatives under discussion into a concrete and coherent plan of action that will include reform to school funding, programs and governance.

I wish to inform members that I'm establishing a minister's advisory group on education finance reform. This group will be made up of representatives from each of the four school board trustee organizations in Ontario, along with representation from the teachers' federations and support staff unions. I'm pleased that Tony Martin, the member for Sault Ste Marie and my parliamentary assistant, will also serve on this group.

As chair of this advisory group I will be directly involved in its work. I will ask its members to work with me to establish, by September 1993, a new system of funding education in Ontario. Education finance reform will proceed in step with the work of the Fair Tax Commission and the review of municipal and provincial responsibilities.

A new approach to school funding is a critical component of change in the education sector. The current system, designed in the late 1960s, is losing its ability to meet the education needs of learners and to support the kinds of education programs and services we need in the fast-changing world of the 1990s. We need a new system that is fair to local taxpayers and to students.

As well, the school funding system must encourage more cooperative and cost-effective approaches to delivering education programs and services, an objective we are already promoting through the \$50.2 million in transition assistance funding I announced last week.

The reform of school funding will be coordinated with the ongoing reform of education programs, so I am setting in place a process to accelerate and focus program reform in Ontario. Within the next four months we will bring our current program initiatives together in a comprehensive package of reforms.

Over the last five years there has been extensive and productive discussion of changes to the program in Ontario schools. It is now time for the ministry to focus on action, to take the directions and expectations we have developed and translate these into realities throughout our school system according to reasonable timetables for implementation.

We will build on the foundation of four principles: excellence, equity, accountability and partnership. Excellence means a new commitment to the highest possible achievement in literacy and numeracy for all of our students. It means a commitment to helping students develop analytical and critical skills that prepare them for a life of learning, genuine and responsible citizenship and full participation in our society and economy.

Equity means a commitment to social justice. It means we must build a system that is sensitive to and better re-

flects the ethnocultural and multiracial diversity of our society. It will also be a system free of barriers raised on the basis of gender or socioeconomic level. The destreaming of grade 9 in 1993 and the mandating of junior kindergarten programs in 1994 are policies that reflect this commitment to equity for every student. We are also committed to integrating more students with special needs into local community classrooms and schools in 1993.

Accountability means that we can show how effectively our school system is meeting these goals of excellence and equity. We need to describe clearly the appropriate levels of achievement for students throughout our school system and to demonstrate publicly how well our students are doing. To do this, we are already developing provincial benchmarks for implementation this year to provide province-wide standards in critical areas of learning.

Partnership means recognizing the shared responsibility for education in Ontario. This government fully realizes the importance of the role local school boards and schools play in realizing our common commitment to excellence and equity. However, it is only when parents and students, teachers, other school board staff, trustees and administrators can work together with a common understanding and purpose that genuine change can come about.

Throughout this process we will continue to seek advice from the wider Ontario education community. Consultation and discussion with educators have led to a commitment by the ministry to provide resources for training teachers who are involved in the restructuring of grades 7, 8 and 9, the transition years. These professional development programs will be determined in consultation with the federations and school boards.

In another important area, I have indicated that the ministry will work with boards that put forward serious alternative proposals on junior kindergarten that meet community needs, as we are currently doing with the Grey County Board of Education.

As we look at education finance reform and program reform, questions will arise about the way in which our school systems are governed and administered. The government is committed to the autonomy and rights of Roman Catholic separate school boards and to the initiatives under way for the first nations communities and French-language education governance in Ontario.

At the same time the financial pressures on school boards clearly show that it is time to begin discussion about what school boards must do on their own and what activities school boards can share in order to reduce duplication of overhead and other costs.

It is important that issues of governance be addressed. I am particularly concerned that we take steps to enhance the role of parents and students in making decisions about education.

I want to inform members that the Ministry of Education will be conducting an internal review regarding its relationship with school boards. We will examine whether the present levels of shared responsibility will continue to serve the needs of an education system that is being reshaped and revitalized, both in its program and its finances. For example, we will examine the ministry's role in the

development of curriculum and how we share our responsibility for providing professional development for teachers.

How the ministry works with school boards in different parts of the province through its regional offices is also important. We have made already significant strides with the northern education project. This project has involved in-depth discussions with every school board in northern Ontario. It is giving us an overview of education programs and services in the north such as we've never had before.

Education finance reform, program reform and the review of the ministry's relationship to school boards will be linked and coordinated through a common focus on excellence, equity and the needs of each student. Over the next several months we will be occupying ourselves with these three main areas of work, which go to the heart of preparing our young people for the world of tomorrow.

RESPONSES

EDUCATION REFORM

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I certainly find the statement of the minister very interesting, if somewhat confusing. But I would like to say that there are things in it that I hope he will keep as his ideals. I'm very happy that he's going to chair the committee himself. The ideals I refer to are the multiracial sensitivity that he's talking about, a system that's free of barriers, that he is going to integrate more students and that he will continue to seek advice from the wider Ontario educational community.

I'm particularly happy that the government is committed to the autonomy and rights of Roman Catholic separate schools and is reiterating that today, and to the initiatives it has undertaken for the first nations and French-language education governance in this province. All of those things I think are very important, and I hope the commitment that is stated today will follow. It is important that issues of governance be addressed, and parents and students be involved in the decisions of education, and the minister has made a commitment to that.

1410

I want to bring to the attention of the House an open letter the minister received on March 24, 1992, from Paula Dunning, the president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. She says school boards are receiving little assistance from the Ministry of Education and see a deterioration in provincial-local relations. Hopefully today there is some small move. I'd like to quote from that letter:

"We begin by noting that in the past, boards of education and the provincial trustee associations have been provided with an overview of the grant program, funding allocations, provincial policy decisions and change, and background material on the GLG program. Because this was not provided at this year's briefing, the full implications of your announcements are only now becoming obvious as boards apply the formula to their budget processes.

"School boards are now living with the realities of restraint (1% transfer payments). Perhaps it is time the minister woke up to the realities as well," Ms Dunning states.

Perhaps, I add, it's time the minister began to cooperate and live by his own principles.

The minister is quoted in the *Toronto Star* of March 13, 1992, as saying, "Details of an advisory committee to recommend these changes"—the changes he was talking about that morning—"will be announced in a few weeks." So I ask, have the changes already been determined? Have all the decisions been made? Are we going to go from a tax-supported system that depends on property tax to an income tax? Are we moving to 60% support for education as the NDP always promised, or is it 60% of what? Are we going to have a change to further assessment equalization factors? This time I hope there'll be some consultation. A focus on action must ensure that all players have input. Let's not forget the parents and students in the process.

I want to bring to the attention of the House that the reason I'm so confused is that we have a tax commission which has a property tax working group. Its report is due in the fall of 1992. The previous Minister of Education said she would be looking forward to those recommendations as her basis for education funding reform. In that working group we have 40 people in this province who have hundreds of years of cumulative experience in this area, and now we have another advisory group being placed.

We also have this wonderful document, an all-party report, which has hardly been touched by this government. The property tax commission is examining tax bases, equalization property, assessment, and its report is due in June, but two months from now. They are going to circulate that through the summer, a difficult time for educational groups it's sure, and now we have a complementary, or should I say conflicting, advisory process.

I'm hopeful the minister will abide by his commitment today that all members of the education community will be involved and that all 170 school boards and their ratepayers will be given sufficient and significant time to express their views.

In the end, will we have a better education system? Will it be more accountable? Will the financing be simplified? Will property tax still have to bear the burden?

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I think the minister should know there are members of our caucus who think his tie is much more interesting than his statement today. Most of this is not news.

I should say we do agree, Minister, that this province does need a new education funding formula. We'll hold you to your promise of introducing one by 1993, as you've stated in the statement today.

The general legislative grant formula is the most complicated and archaic grant mechanism in the province. All you have to do is talk to Metro, which does not understand. The taxpayers in Metropolitan Toronto have no idea why they don't get a penny of provincial funding to educate students in their school system.

Every year the school boards receive a 100-page document, the general legislative grant document, and every year the local property taxpayer ends up paying more of the total cost of education. In this province this year, Mr Minister, I know you're very much aware that it will be

almost \$8 billion local tax dollars out of the \$14-billion budget expenditure.

You know as well as I do that we're not sure this is the best way to go. We now have a minister's advisory committee, we have the Fair Tax Commission, we have the disentanglement project, but if you can coordinate all these people I'll congratulate you in advance, Mr Minister.

We should remember that in 1985 we had the Macdonald commission, in 1987 we had the third report of the select committee on education, and still the former government did not introduce tax reform. They simply tinkered with the existing formula.

I suppose the big question from the school boards today would be, why will you not place a moratorium on all the new programs until the new funding formula is in place? How can you ask school boards to introduce new programs when you're looking at a funding formula?

You should also know, Mr Minister, that your bottom line, and I'm wondering if it will be the direction to the committee—I don't really want to read your statement in the Agenda for People, the 60% solution, because I don't want to raise expectations, but it was a promise. Perhaps that could be part of the mandate if you can do it without raising taxes, because you also said you weren't going to do that.

Mr Minister, I think you should notice the headline in today's final edition of the Toronto Star: "Illiterate Kids Pouring Out of Schools—Study." We don't need another study; what we need is some action, and you've got a lot of good information.

With regard to the program aspect of this announcement today, in bold type we see "Equity," "Accountability" and "Partnership," and at the same time you're saying you want more input from parents. I might advise you, Mr Minister, that at this time you need someone outside the education community on your advisory committee. How about people from the business community? How about parents? Maybe someone from labour, but certainly the educators themselves are not the only people with the expertise to solve the problem, so take a look at broadening that committee and still getting your work done at the same time.

In the area of program, if you really care about listening to parents, don't legislate junior kindergarten; they don't want it. School boards have told you, and they represent the public.

I should say while the Minister of Community and Social Services is here that we're still looking for a solution to early childhood education. Whether that be one of child care or of education, it's never been discussed. We do not have public consultation, but if the public consultation process were on that issue right now, we could support it.

Is the government saying, by the initiatives under way for the first nations, that we will now go from four school boards to six school boards, Mr Minister? I surely hope not. We're definitely overregulated—too much bureaucracy in education. I'd like to know what the role of the regional office is as well. I hope you're going to cut down all the levels of bureaucracy. When the first persons in the

classroom are the child and the teacher, where are we talking about kids? Let's get it done. We look forward to it.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): Today's announcement simply raises the question, who pays for what programs? And tomorrow we're going to get the answers. The fact is, Minister, that you're throwing around words like "equity" and "consultation." Let me put it to you in perspective. If you want to talk equity, half the children in this province don't have access to junior kindergarten.

In Halton region, if you have the good fortune to be raised in a Catholic home, you have access to that program, but you don't if you're not. If you're going to talk consultation, ask the Minister of Community and Social Services why she hasn't had any discussions with you about day care interfacing with the programs in your junior kindergarten schools. Where's the consultation within your own government?

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Before recognizing the member for Simcoe West, I would invite all members of the assembly to welcome to our gallery this afternoon a former member, a long-standing member of the House, seated in the west gallery of the members' section, Mr Jack Johnson, former member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel.

1420

MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker, of which I have given you notice: I wish to deal with a matter that constitutes not only a breach of privilege, but a contempt of Parliament and a disrespect for this Legislature.

I refer to privilege as defined in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms as follows: "Parliamentary privilege is the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively...and by members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions and which exceed those possessed by other bodies or individuals."

I feel that my job and responsibility as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario is to represent and serve the best interests of the people of Ontario, yet circumstances have arisen that make it difficult for me to discharge my function as a member of this House. I should like to refer you to paragraph 2 of subsection 45(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act, which I paraphrase as follows: "The assembly has all the rights and privileges of a court of record for the purposes of summarily inquiring into and punishing, as breaches of privilege or as contempts, the acts, matters and things following: obstructing, threatening or attempting to force or intimidate a member of the assembly."

Mr Speaker, allow me to briefly outline the details of what I consider to be a breach of my privilege as a member of this assembly. On April 21 I asked the Minister of Health a question concerning the pharmaceutical company Deprenyl Research Ltd and its co-chairman, Dr Morton Shulman. Subsequently, Dr Shulman has attempted to

intimidate me into keeping silent on the important issue I raised in the Legislature.

Yesterday Dr Shulman faxed the media in my riding a letter referring to the question I had asked on April 21. Today Dr Shulman circulated to the Queen's Park press gallery that letter along with a second letter in which he attempts to explain what he has done with the profits he has made from the sale of the Parkinson's disease-fighting drug distributed in Canada by his company. Dr Shulman also sent the press gallery an altered copy of my original press release of April 21.

While at first glance it might appear that something done outside of the House is not subject to privilege, I ask you, Mr Speaker, to consider the full implications of the owner of a company attempting to defame a member's character through the distribution of an altered press release and misinformation. Dr Shulman's actions are nothing more than bold-faced attempts to muzzle me simply because I asked a question in this Legislature concerning his business practices. Intimidation is intimidation, and while we all react differently to intimidation, I suggest to you, and through you to all members, that the actions taken by Dr Shulman weigh heavily on us and truly affect our discharge of public duties.

As well, I suggest to you that this intimidation cannot go ignored, for to let it pass would only serve to inhibit members from ever asking a question concerning the business practices of a company operating in Ontario. When you silence a member, you censor the will of the people and you destroy democracy.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to consider whether I have a prima facie case of privilege in this matter.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Simcoe West, may I say first that I appreciate that the member followed the appropriate procedure in notifying the Speaker in writing in advance. He has indeed presented his situation to the Speaker quite properly. I will be most pleased to take a look at the details he's brought to my attention. I reserve judgement on it, and I will attempt to report back to the member and the House at my earliest convenience.

ORAL QUESTIONS

BUDGET

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Treasurer. Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that, in spite of all the Treasurer's concerns for the security of his budget and the \$200,000 spent on Ontario Provincial Police guards to assure that the budget would remain confidential, it appears the budget details have been leaked.

But the leak is not our concern today. There were no surprises in the information. The story in the Toronto Star actually just confirmed most of Ontarians' worst fears. Our concern today is with the impact of the Treasurer's budget on the people of this province. Quite simply, the Treasurer's budget is going to mean that the people of Ontario will be paying higher taxes.

The Treasurer's budget is going to be formally presented to the House at a very inopportune time, as people are sitting down tonight filling out these forms, trying to beat their filing deadline on this year's personal income tax; and next year, with this Treasurer's budget, people filling out these forms will be paying considerably more money. Some people in fact will be paying as much as \$1,100 more. That's real.

What's also real is that these higher taxes are going to kill jobs. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association estimates that for every \$40,000 in increased tax revenue, one job is killed in Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the leader place her question, please.

Mrs McLeod: I would like to ask the Treasurer if he can tell our House how many jobs his higher-tax budget will cost this province.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I appreciate the question, because it allows me to put in perspective the stories that were reported in the popular press this morning in Toronto. I think the member opposite should understand that every year at budget time there is speculation around tax moves and other actions that might be taken by the government, but I think the member opposite would appreciate as well that we have very aggressive investigative journalists in this province, and they have a job to do, but I would say to you as clearly as I can that the tabloids in this city require tough investigative journalism that I think always involves a certain element of speculation, and that's exactly what this is.

Mrs McLeod: I'm not surprised that the Treasurer felt some need to defend himself in response to the question he thought he was going to get, but that was not the question I asked the Treasurer and in fact that is not the primary concern of those of us in our caucus today. Our primary concern is with the effect this budget is going to have on people: on people who are worried about having jobs and about the economy of this province. I want to help the Treasurer focus on the questions we're asking, because a lot of people out there in this province are going to be very worried about what he brings down in that budget tomorrow.

The Treasurer used to teach economics, and surely he understands that the economy is like a big circle: If you create business and consumer confidence, you create jobs; if you create jobs, you improve incomes and profits, and then you generate more tax money and you lower the deficit.

The Treasurer, with his own knowledge of economics, is drawing his own circle, but it's going in the wrong direction and quite simply it's going to cost this province more jobs. I would ask the Treasurer to explain to this House how taking more money out of the pockets of consumers and businesses is supposed to get the Ontario economy moving again.

Hon Mr Laughren: Whenever the opposition asks me a question or demands something, I keep a little note of what it is. Over the last month or so, they've asked for no tax increases, no non-tax revenue increases, a lower budget deficit, reduced spending, more services, a smaller public

service, lower taxes, more consultation and less consultation. So all I can say to the member opposite is that we—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: I do appreciate the fact that the leader of the official opposition has made a commitment to be in opposition not just for the sake of opposition and that she will bring forth some positive suggestions as to what should be in the budget tomorrow. We always did that when we were in opposition. I wish the leader of the official opposition would live up to her word and tell us what it is she thinks we should do vis-à-vis all those options that are in front of us.

1430

Mrs McLeod: I'm not sure if the Treasurer just asked us to trade places or not. We're ready any time the Premier wants to give notice.

I do not come with any sense, which the Treasurer clearly has, to have to be quite so on the defensive. I'm more than prepared to defend the kinds of questions that our members have asked to hold this government accountable. I'm more than prepared to put forward our alternatives. In fact, I'm prepared to do that in my question to the Treasurer, but I want to keep focusing this question on the issue of concern we are trying to get him to address.

I'm going to bring the Treasurer back to something he might not have been aware of, and that was a message the leader of the federal NDP put out in March. The federal NDP leader suggested that any budget that accepts almost 1.5 million unemployed has to be considered a failure. The reality is that in Ontario right now there are 609,000 people who are unemployed and that higher taxes are going to mean pink slips for more Ontarians. Tens of thousands more are going to be in job lineups because of this Treasurer's budget. I would just ask the Treasurer whether he agrees with the federal NDP leader that a budget that gives us both higher taxes and higher unemployment is indeed a failure.

Hon Mr Laughren: I would say to the leader of the official opposition that a budget that doesn't make a serious attempt to address the problems of unemployment at this time would indeed be a failure. I want to assure the member opposite that the budget to be brought down tomorrow will make a serious attempt to deal with unemployment, will make a serious attempt to continue to provide the services that we think people in this province are determined to have, namely, in education, health care and other public services. At the same time the leader of the official opposition would want us to make sure we keep the deficit in check as well. There's no question that it is a certain kind of balancing act and that we'll be judged by how fairly we accomplish that.

TAXATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My second question is also to the Treasurer. He will understand if we fail to be convinced. It was a year ago that the Treasurer brought out his first budget, and in that first budget he announced quite proudly that he was going to

fight the recession and not the deficit, that he would try and spend his way out of recession, and it's quite clear now that this has failed. We have more people unemployed and we have, as he has just suggested, an unacceptably high deficit of some \$11 billion.

We understand the kind of predicament the Treasurer is in in having to deal with the disaster of his first budget, so this year he's trying to fight his deficit by raising taxes. We believe this year's budget is also going to fall short of the mark. It's going to leave thousands and thousands of people out of work, and at the end of the day his deficit is likely to be only higher.

We don't believe it has to be that way. Most provinces have already released their budgets, most of them in the Legislature as opposed to the media, but many of those jurisdictions have already recognized that there are alternatives to the tax approach to budget-making. I would ask the Treasurer, if he's looking for alternatives, why he is insisting on taxing his way out of this recession when other jurisdictions have set a model for going in a quite different direction.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): If the leader of the official opposition would look at the budgets and what's happened to virtually all of the other jurisdictions in this country, she would see that perhaps Newfoundland was the only province that managed to achieve the deficit level it set out a year ago. It has been a recession that has hit all the country, but it has certainly hit Ontario a lot harder than any other jurisdiction. If we had not brought forth a budget last year that maintained services, that had a substantial deficit but helped maintain essential services and jobs because of that deficit, we'd have a lot higher unemployment in the province than we do now.

I don't agree for one minute with the leader of official opposition. I know she feels she has to take the very traditional role of an opposition leader and criticize whatever it is we do on this side, but I would say to the leader of the official opposition that the budget that was brought down last year went some way to maintaining essential services that we think people want in this province.

Mrs McLeod: On this side of the House we have called for no new taxes in this budget and we have called on the government to reduce its spending, because we believe those are steps in the direction of getting the economy going again. The Treasurer is saying, "What are the alternatives?" We're suggesting that he at least look at jurisdictions that have been looking at the alternatives, at other jurisdictions that are lowering and eliminating taxes for businesses to encourage investment and jobs, at other jurisdictions that are providing incentives for research and development and spending on new equipment, and at other jurisdictions that are lowering their gas and diesel taxes to combat cross-border shopping.

We ask the Treasurer whether he has looked at any of these alternatives, not with a view to increasing his spending and increasing his deficit, but with a view to channeling his spending to get the economy going again, to get job creation and at the end of the day to lower his deficit.

Hon Mr Laughren: I have always thought there was more of a difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives when it comes to tax measures, but I am starting to get a little worried here because the leader of the official opposition is talking about lowering taxes and cutting expenditures. She hasn't said anything yet about the deficit. I don't know whether she's saying the deficit should be higher, but if she's saying lower taxes and lower expenditures, and doesn't want any new taxes, never mind wanting them lowered, then I'm a little concerned about where's she's coming from.

Finally, I'm not sure but I think I heard the leader of the official opposition suggest we should lower cigarette taxes and gasoline taxes. I don't know what her position is in terms of the health care system and the effect of smoking on our health care costs or on the burning of gasoline vis-à-vis the environment. I'd be interested in hearing her position on those matters as well.

Mrs McLeod: I can't help but agree with the Treasurer that his government has created such a financial crisis in this province that it's very difficult to know what kind of response to make with this budget. I agree that Ontario right now is unlike any other jurisdiction in the country because of the results of the budget he brought in a year ago. That is the sad reality of today that any responsible government and any responsible politician has to be prepared to respond to.

If the Treasurer is not prepared to look at the kinds of alternatives other jurisdictions will look at, maybe I can bring him back to the kinds of things people in Ontario are saying. Maybe I can suggest he might have listened to the basic wisdom of people in the province: farmers, small business people or plant workers; the taxpayers of this province who are saying that new taxes or increased taxes are just not the way to go.

What information does this Treasurer possess that has convinced him to raise taxes when all of our farmers, manufacturers, small business people, virtually every taxpayer in this province, are saying this is not the way to go?

Hon Mr Laughren: This year through my office, my parliamentary assistant and other caucus members' assistants, we held the broadest kind of consultation leading up to this budget that's ever been held in the province of Ontario.

We really have opened up the budget process. We listened very carefully to what people had to say. What people said to us, to me, in the last two months was: "Look, we know that it's a very severe recession. We don't want you to start slashing essential services like health care, education and other public services we fought so long to get in the first place. Second, we want you to keep the deficit under control." That's what they've been telling us and finally they said: "We understand that you're going to have to raise some taxes. We understand that. Just make sure you do it as fairly as possible."

We are going to deal with the issues facing this province, not run away from them and call an election the way the party opposite did.

1440

BUDGET SECURITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is very direct concerning the news that has been in the newspapers very recently. My question is to the Treasurer. Could the Treasurer tell this House if there's been any breaches of confidence or secrecy surrounding this budget?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): That's a serious question and I treat it seriously. To my knowledge, no, there have been no breaches of secrecy or confidentiality surrounding the budget. As far as I know, that's not the case, because I read the press this morning and the stories seemed particularly speculative, if I could put it that way.

Mr Stockwell: It's come to my attention that some two weeks ago Mr John Piper held a conference call with the trade offices around the world. That conference call was surrounding the labour legislation. There was some question about whether or not this government was intent on helping to attract business to this province.

I understand that during that discussion Mr John Piper gave out information about the upcoming budget that was not considered acceptable. There were dozens of government officials involved in this conference call. Further to that, the Treasury officials went back to their office and told the deputy minister that this took place. The deputy minister then acted very quickly, within hours, to contact all those people who were part of that meeting and asked them to either destroy the notes they took or give back any information they received during that telephone conversation.

Mr Treasurer, I assume you've spoken to Mr Piper in the last couple of weeks. I can only assume that if this took place it must have come up in conversation. I ask the Treasurer very pointedly: Considering this would be considered a major breach if in fact it took place, do you know about this, and if so, what action have you taken?

Hon Mr Laughren: There is some truth to the story the member tells us. There was a conference call to agents general across the pond and the discussion was, in very general terms, about the upcoming budget, and that we intended to proceed with labour reform legislation, which is not something new; that was in the throne speech. There was no breach of any kind of security.

There were some people who drew some conclusions from that conference call, but to my knowledge there was no breach of confidentiality in that conference call. It was simply a case of making sure that our agents general around the world have a sense of what's coming so that when the budget comes down, they'll have a sense of what it is we're trying to accomplish. It was nothing more and nothing less than that.

Mr Stockwell: I think the question was very clear when I asked you the first time. The deputy minister recalled that information. As I understand it, she directed that it be destroyed. The deputy minister found out about this meeting some two hours later when her officials who attended this conference call reported back to her. She considered this to be serious enough to contact all parties who

were part of this conference call and ask them to either destroy the information or notes they had or simply send them back.

If it was such a run of the mill meeting, such a run of the mill conference call, why did the deputy minister some two hours later seek out all individuals who were part of this meeting and ask that the information be destroyed or sent back? If it wasn't sensitive, why was this very serious action taken by the deputy minister?

Hon Mr Laughren: I think what the member is referring to is simply a precautionary step taken by the acting Deputy Treasurer to make sure that the information conveyed was dealt with in the proper way. I don't think there's anything at all unusual about that.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question, the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: New question to the Treasurer: Mr Treasurer, I want to be very clear about this. Your deputy minister was very clear in her actions. If it was a run of the mill meeting, I don't know why you would expect her to send out her staff to contact all people involved to tell them to, as I understand her words, "Destroy any notes you took." It seems reasonably clear to me that Mr Piper went just a little bit too far.

You have this information, and as I understand it, the call included dozens of government officials, those within Treasury and those outside of Treasury.

The question I ask, Mr Treasurer, is that if this information was not sensitive, if this was only precautionary, why would the deputy minister act so quickly to ensure that none of this information was passed on any further and in fact brief those people who were at the meeting not to pass on any of this information to anybody else?

Hon Mr Laughren: I am not sure what the member for Etobicoke West is looking for, but this was a government official phoning government officials who are agents general in other parts of the world. It was government to government—same government. I do not know why that would pose a problem. If we took precautions to make sure that people didn't put the wrong spin on notes they might have taken, then I don't see anything wrong with that. I would rather err on the side of caution, as a matter of fact.

Mr Stockwell: As I understand the conversation taking place, this was never supposed to be surrounding the budget. This conference call was surrounding your labour legislation. There was some flak from those areas outside of Canada, obviously, about the concern that your government was not friendly to business. I had the understanding that Mr Piper got somewhat hot under the collar and somewhat frustrated about the way the debate was going. He suggested to these people that this government is in fact fair and reasonable to business and to prove it he outlined some specifics about your upcoming budget—very clearly some specifics that should not have been outlined.

I ask you, Mr Treasurer, have you spoken to Mr Piper about this? If it's not so secret, can you tell me exactly what he outlined to these government officials?

Hon Mr Laughren: I think the member for Etobicoke West has just outlined himself what was conveyed, so I don't think there is anything more than that. If the member for Etobicoke West has a sense that there was very specific, sensitive and confidential information conveyed in that conference call, I'd be interested in knowing that, because my understanding is that it was in very general terms that we were proceeding with the Ontario Labour Relations Act; yes, that there were going to be tax increases in the budget, but that it was not going to be an anti-business budget any more than anything we've ever done has been anti-business.

Mr Stockwell: Let's be very clear on this, Mr Treasurer. You have now had a conference call with a number of government officials—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: I'm sorry. That's right. John Piper has had a conference call with a number of government officials around the world. He has outlined some labour legislation and in fact got involved in a debate about the upcoming budget. The Treasury officials took this information back to your deputy minister. Your deputy minister was so concerned about the information John Piper gave that she immediately requested that all people involved be spoken to, all notes taken be destroyed and all information brought back to her.

It would seem to me that if John Piper were not giving out information that was at least sensitive, your deputy minister would hardly act in this fashion. Mr Treasurer, I ask you point-blank, when did you get advice that this took place? Have you spoken to John Piper about this? Why did your deputy minister act so quickly and so thoroughly to disguise or do away with all the information that was disseminated by Mr Piper at this meeting?

Hon Mr Laughren: First of all, I will try to answer the three aspects to the member's questions. One was, when did I hear about it? I heard about it the morning that the conference call was made. Second, did I speak to Mr Piper subsequently? Yes, I spoke to Mr Piper subsequently. Third, to my knowledge, there was absolutely no information, no specifics whatsoever, that could be considered as being a breach of secrecy around the budget. It was simply a case of saying, "This is what we're trying to accomplish." If people at the other end of the conference call were making their own notes and coming to their conclusions, then that's a different matter. All I would say is that we were taking precautions, which I think the member would want us to.

1450

BUDGET

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): The question is to the Treasurer. Parenthetically, I think the last comment indicates growing concern by people about the government.

We continue to see reference by the Premier to what I call a phantom deficit number. He wants to talk about an operating deficit. He wants to show that when you fix a

roof or pave a road, that's not really an expenditure; he'll take out a 20-year bank loan for that.

My question to you, Treasurer, is this: I don't think you agree with that approach, and when you came to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs you said that approach the Premier is articulating was nonsense. You said: "I think it would be counterproductive to pretend that the capital part of your budget was not just as big a part of the deficit as the operating. I think it would be seen to be so transparent to try and do that."

Can you assure the House today that the Premier has not forced you to try what you would call this counterproductive and transparent attempt to report an artificially low deficit tomorrow?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I can assure the member that the Premier has not had his way with me.

Mr Phillips: That's comforting. I take from that, then, that the Premier will not attempt to talk about the deficit being just the operating deficit. On June 20, again, Treasurer, you said: "We will not disguise the consolidated deficit by any stretch of the imagination. People are not stupid. They would see through that." I clearly agree with that, that the people would see through the Premier's attempt to report what I call a phantom deficit.

Can you assure the House that your budget tomorrow will clearly outline the real deficit, as you call it, the real deficit being the operating and the capital deficit on a consolidated basis, as you promised the finance and economic affairs committee?

Hon Mr Laughren: Perhaps I could give a more fulsome response. First of all, the Premier has never pretended that having a separate capital budget from an operating budget was designed to do anything other than to report matters the way other jurisdictions do all across this country. There's never been any attempt to do other than that.

What I said when I appeared before the standing committee, as I recall, was that if we tried to suddenly have the capital aspect of the budget disappear, it would be seen to be so transparent that we were thinking that people are so stupid that we had suddenly been able to erase a part of the deficit. That is total nonsense and that is not the case.

All the Premier was saying—and all I've been saying as well, not just the Premier—is that virtually all other jurisdictions report their capital differently than Ontario does. That's all we've been saying.

Interjection.

Hon Mr Laughren: No, I'm not saying that's counterproductive. I am saying it's counterproductive if you pretend that capital spending is not part of the borrowing requirements of the province. It certainly is.

BUDGET SECURITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I'd like to go back to the Treasurer again. Mr Treasurer, I have some serious concerns about this conference call that took place with Mr Piper. First off, on a conference call I don't think

you can guarantee security about information, because you don't know who's at the other end of these calls.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Another Tory.

Mr Stockwell: Another bright light chirping.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Will the member place his question, please.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Treasurer, first of all, you cannot be secure in the knowledge of who was at the other end of those telephone calls. Second, the information I have is that it was very sensitive material that was given by Mr Piper. Third, if the information is not sensitive, the question still stands: Why was such a reaction taken by your deputy minister to collect and destroy it all? Fourth, you met with Mr Piper before the conference call; you met with Mr Piper after the conference call. Tell us what he said.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The member for Etobicoke West is quite right that you don't know who's at the other end of a conference call; I think that's clear. I met with Mr Piper after the conference call, not before or during. But to my knowledge, there was no particular information that could be deemed to be sensitive in the call, as far as I know. My understanding is that the deputy was simply taking precautions to make sure that people didn't come to conclusions that were inappropriate.

Mr Stockwell: I would like to ask the Treasurer this question: Did the deputy minister assure you that the information that was in fact given by Mr Piper was not sensitive? My information is that the deputy minister considered it to be sensitive information, she acted on this sensitive information by contacting people who were at this meeting, or supposedly at this meeting, and she asked them to destroy any notes they made and not talk about the meeting—case closed, period. If it was not sensitive information, why did your deputy minister take such steps as to ask for the information to be destroyed and ask all the relevant parties not to speak about it; and did the deputy minister give you her assurance that any of the information that was given by Mr Piper was not sensitive?

Hon Mr Laughren: The deputy minister was not part of the conference call, as I understand. The deputy minister was indeed concerned that people at the other end of the phone—and you're quite right; you don't know who's at the other end—might draw conclusions that were inaccurate and might put a spin on it that was inappropriate. It was simply a precautionary act; it was not something that was designed to destroy information that was specific. I know, or at least I think I know, that if the member for Etobicoke West had more specific information that indicated there was truly sensitive information, he'd let us know.

JOB CREATION

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): My question is for the Minister of Energy. The throne speech states that a number of jobs will be created from Hydro's demand management programs. Could the minister give us some idea

of how many jobs will be created in this way and in what sectors?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): Ontario Hydro's demand management programs will create about 10,000 jobs across the economy this year in 1992. As the programs adjust and expand over the next several years, it's estimated they will on average create about 19,000 jobs a year between now and the year 2000.

These will happen in the industrial sector around the replacement with energy-efficient motors, in the commercial sector around Hydro's efficient-lighting programs and in the residential sector around the Energy Savers audit program. There will be about 120 permanent jobs created and about 300 existing jobs will be saved at the General Electric plant in Oakville because of GE's decision to move production of energy-efficient lighting to that plant.

There are hundreds of other opportunities like that across the province that we intend to pursue in partnership with industry. The Ministry of Energy is also working in consultation with a number of other ministries that'll be announcing a number of other programs over the days and weeks and months ahead.

Ms Carter: If Hydro relied solely on nuclear power construction and did not aggressively pursue conservation efforts, how many jobs, Mr Minister, would be created then?

Hon Mr Charlton: Very briefly, energy-efficiency programs, especially when they become retrofit programs to existing institutions or buildings or whatever out there in the province, are very labour-intensive. As compared to nuclear, for example, energy efficiency will create about an additional 4,000 jobs per year over what an ongoing or expanded nuclear program would be capable of.

1500

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is also to the Treasurer. Treasurer, with the apparent information and the concern about a potential leak that's being asked about today, there might be some calls for you to resign. I personally would like you not to do that. I'm afraid of whom they might replace you with.

Treasurer, I have in my possession a copy of your budget released by the Woodward and Bernstein of the press gallery, Ferguson and Maychak. I have examined the document to find out what you might be planning and if there's anything in there for small business. As you know, small business makes up about 95% of our economy, and in fact companies with fewer than 100 employees make up the largest employee group in all of Ontario.

In fiscal year 1989-90 provincial revenue from this source was \$4.7 billion. In 1991-92 that has shrunk to \$3.1 billion. Your response, Treasurer, according to the budget document that I have at least, to this shrinking revenue base is to tax your way to prosperity. You're taking money out of the hands of consumers and subsequently, by doing that, you're taking money out of the hands of the small business community.

Can the Treasurer explain to this House why he thinks he can tax his way to prosperity on the backs of the small business community?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): First, perhaps I should disabuse the member of the sense that there has been a leak of the budget. It's simply not the case.

Second, having said that, I'm sure the member wouldn't want me to create another furore in this House by leaking something more than what he thinks has already been leaked, but I can assure the member opposite that this government understands the value of the small business community in this province. I don't know of any other government ever in my 20 years here that's spent as much time listening to and consulting with the small business community as this government has.

Mr Mahoney: You'll pardon us if we gag a little on that, but I took you to say that you would not want to release something more. I don't know if that means you've actually released something already, according to this document. Yes, I think you should shake the old noggin there. I'm not sure what you were saying.

Aside from the other areas of revenue, personal income tax under this government has shrunk from \$15.2 billion, fiscal year 1990-91, down to \$13 billion, 1991-92. The business tax revenue is down, as I pointed out before. Your answer to that is simply to tax people more. Do you not understand, Treasurer, that if you give small business a tax break instead of a tax hike, it will create jobs, wealth and prosperity? While you try to tax your way to prosperity on your own, the small business community could simply invest its way, our way and even possibly your way to that prosperity if you would give it a break.

Treasurer, would you do the one thing that will help get our economy moving again: give small business a break and simply lower taxes?

Hon Mr Laughren: I don't normally engage in provocative language, but the member opposite made a reference to gagging on my response. I want to tell you that I almost gag when I hear a Liberal talk about lowering taxes in Ontario.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: I think this is as good as it's going to get, Mr Speaker, and I'll stop now.

BUDGET SECURITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the Treasurer once more. I have a very straightforward question: Did your deputy minister—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member take his seat.

Mr Stockwell: I have a very direct question to the Treasurer: Did your deputy minister assure you categorically that there was no breach with respect to the John Piper conference call?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I don't know how much more clearly I can put it. There has been no leak, and there's been no release of confidential information.

Mr Stockwell: This minister is not answering the question. The question is very clear: Did your deputy minister assure you that with respect to the John Piper conference call around the world there was no breach of secrecy regarding the upcoming budget?

Hon Mr Laughren: I'm somewhat puzzled by the member's—I'll try once again because I have tried to be as categorical as possible. The conference call was made to government officials, government to government; that's how the call occurred. There was no breach of confidential information. There was no sensitive information, as far as I know, released in that conference call. To my knowledge, no, there was no leak, and there was no release of confidential information.

PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): On a social note, I'd love to be able to ask the third party this question—I know the rules of the House and I can't do that—because I know the federal government certainly hasn't reacted to this problem and never will, for crying out loud.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the member for Yorkview have a question?

Interjections.

Mr Mammoliti: They've taken their thumbs out of their mouths.

The Speaker: If the member has a question, would he direct it.

Mr Mammoliti: I will direct my question to the Solicitor General. In my riding of Yorkview, illegal drugs is certainly an issue. I find this is a problem in my community, and certainly drug trafficking has been a concern to my constituents. More specifically, what are we doing as a government when drug dealers are caught? When money is seized and directed by the federal government, does the Solicitor General not believe the money should be redirected into the communities? I certainly feel it's unfair for the federal government to take it, and I'd like to know his opinion.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): The member asks a question with respect to the proceeds of crime, and he's quite right, there is an unfairness, an inequity with respect to the sharing of those revenues between the federal and provincial governments. It goes to the point where it's so unfair that even if we have local police jurisdictions putting up money, if I might fabricate a situation, where they are attempting to involve themselves in a drug deal, the money those local jurisdictions put up in fact has to be forwarded to the federal government as proceeds of crime.

We're discussing these matters with the federal government. I think it would be much more equitable and fair if those proceeds are shared with local and provincial governments. We're going to try to find an equitable way to do just that.

1510

Mr Mammoliti: In the discussions with the federal government I'm hoping that on the agenda, when we get this funding, the money that is going to be redirected into our communities—rehabilitation, education and awareness are certainly key issues and areas that this money should be redirected in. I would ask, in supplementary of course, whether the minister would agree with this and whether it will be on the agenda.

Hon Mr Pilkey: The member's question is indeed a very insightful one because, simply, law enforcement alone will not solve the drug problem in this province. As he mentioned, there are a variety of other ways and circumstances required to aid in this particular problem. I can assure the member that we will incorporate his ideas in any discussions we have with the federal government in order that those proceeds of crime can be redirected to the meaningful kinds of situations that will help ameliorate the cause of the problem in the first place.

The Speaker: New question, the member for St George-St David. No, the member for St Catharines.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): I'm here.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is very kind of you to indicate the member for St George-St David is here as well today.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): My question is for the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be aware that approximately one job in four in Ontario is dependent either directly or indirectly on the automotive industry. He'll be aware that in my own city of St Catharines some 3,000 people may lose their jobs as the result of an announcement made on February 24 by General Motors. The automotive industry is under siege, I would say, and under very great competition throughout North America from offshore products and even within North America.

In light of this, would the Treasurer indicate what measures he is contemplating announcing this week which would be of benefit to the automotive industry? Specifically, is he prepared to implement the following recommendation: that Ontario should establish an auto department to assess on an ongoing basis the industry's weaknesses and strengths, to keep up with international developments and to monitor and initiate policy? In other words, is the Treasurer prepared to establish such a department within the Treasury and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology on a formal basis to deal with the very serious problems being confronted by the automotive industry?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Could I refer that very serious question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology?

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): I appreciate the question. The honourable member will know that I met with him and both the regional mayor and the mayor of St Catharines this week to discuss progress we are making as a team, and with the other MPPs from the area in looking at the structure of the St Catharines area and developing some alternatives. I

have also met with members of the union and the auto parts industry, their association and members of the major automobile companies. We are developing the appropriate structures.

Mr Bradley: Supplementary to the Treasurer as well: I don't think he will pass this one to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology because it's more within his purview. To the Treasurer, on the issue of taxes on the automotive industry, specifically the tax on auto workers: May I ask—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The original question was redirected to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology; hence the supplementary must be directed to him. He in turn may wish to pass it on to someone else.

Mr Bradley: I appreciate that. Whoever decides to answer this over there, that's fine with me. Would the Treasurer or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology undertake to tell the House today that this government is going to withdraw Bill 130, abandon the tax on auto workers, the so-called gas guzzler tax, and that you are prepared to remove the 8% provincial sales tax on automobiles for at least a period of time to spur sales of those vehicles and thereby achieve two main things: first of all, an economic boost to the automotive industry by creating new jobs and maintaining those jobs which exist and, second, by improving fuel economy and emissions as people replace their old vehicles with new vehicles which have better fuel economy and better pollution control equipment?

Hon Mr Philip: The member knows I cannot disclose nor do I know the specifics of the budget, but I can tell you one thing I do know: This government has invested more in the restructuring of industry, five, six, seven times more, in one year than they've ever done in a similar year in their regime. I'd be happy to outline all the programs we've done. That's what we've done.

BUDGET SECURITY

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a question to the Treasurer on the leaks by Mr Piper to a variety of people around the world about his upcoming budget. I want to direct a question with respect to the interaction between himself and his deputy minister. Officials of his ministry were present during these conversations and obviously were quite concerned about some of the details revealed by Mr Piper. They returned and reported to the deputy, who was also extremely concerned, so much so that she undertook an effort to recover the information and have it destroyed or returned to her.

The Treasurer has been avoiding a very specific question. He grimaces, talks around it, dances around it, while all we're looking for is a specific yes or no, Mr Treasurer. When you were conveyed this information by your deputy, did she or did she not indicate that this was confidential and secret information which should not have been revealed to the public through these conversations? Yes or no?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): First of all, these yes or no

demands don't make any sense for the complex question that has just been put by the member.

It is my understanding there were no budget details revealed in that conference call.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member for Burlington South, come to order.

Hon Mr Laughren: Anything the member for Burlington South says doesn't bother me because it's totally valueless.

The people on the other end of the conference call were, as I understand it, senior people in government. There are senior people in this government, in this building, in these environs, who have access to budget information because they help us write the budget. The various deputies at the ministerial level have information which, if revealed, would be determined to be a budget leak. As a matter of fact, this is their job, to be part of helping us prepare the budget and talk about the budget. I don't think there's anything here that's untoward.

The Speaker: Supplementary? No supplementary? New question, the member for Huron.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm prepared to ask the supplementary question.

The Speaker: I did call twice. If the member for Willowdale is prepared, go ahead.

1520

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The standing orders are quite specific with respect to the rotation both of questions and the opportunities for supplementaries. In that context, although the member was slow to get to his feet, he indeed has the opportunity, as the standing orders prescribe, to ask his supplementary.

Mr Harnick: Treasurer, you have just told us that no budget leaks were revealed in the conference call, yet we know your deputy minister retrieved all contents of those conversations if they were committed to paper. If nothing sensitive was revealed and if there were no leaks, will you please provide us now, all the members of this Legislature, with what the specific contents of that conference call entailed? What was discussed? Tell us what information the deputy had to retrieve if it wasn't sensitive.

Hon Mr Laughren: Perhaps we could put this in a bit of perspective. We had one person sworn to secrecy, in the normal course of events around this place, talking to other people who are also sworn to secrecy. So it's not—

Interjection: No, no.

Hon Mr Laughren: Well, it's true. It's not as though someone was talking on an open-line radio show, and even, if I could go so far as to say—

Interjections.

Hon Mr Laughren: If you'd let me finish making my point, even if there was something sensitive said in that conference call, it was said to people who are also sworn

to secrecy, so it's not as though this was something said to the public at large.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

ABANDONED RAILWAY LINES

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): My question is to the Minister of Transportation. As you may recall, Mr Minister, last December I asked questions—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Will the member take his seat.

Interjections.

Mr Klopp: In December, Mr Minister—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Member for York Centre, come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would you stop the clock, please. I will inform the House, and indeed especially the member for York Centre, that the member for Huron will be given an opportunity to place his question. With your cooperation, he will be able to do so and we can continue with the routine proceedings of this chamber.

Interjection.

The Speaker: I ask the member to come to order. Start the clock, please. Member for Huron.

Mr Klopp: As I was saying before I was interrupted, in December I asked a question about the rail lines in my riding, especially the CP lines between Guelph and Goderich. Over the years there was an interministerial committee set up, I think by the Tories or maybe by the Liberals. It must have been one of the longest committees ever running, but no decisions were ever made.

In December I asked you if this committee has ever decided to make decisions and have you given direction on that, and you assured me that decisions would probably be made this year. Over the last number of months, the farmers in my constituency who are concerned about that land, plus people who would like to see if they could make trails of it to help promote rural Ontario, people who would also like the idea of using that property to put in pipelines or stuff like that which would save this province a lot of money—my question is, Mr Minister, although it's been four months and only four months—but I know how fast and how well you work—could you please give me an update so I could tell my constituents where this process is at? The previous government sat and sat on it, so I'm going to bug you every chance I get so we get a decision made on this.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): The question is very valid indeed. So many—in fact 3,000—kilometres of abandoned railway over the province by virtue possibly—I don't wish to be judgemental or harsh—of a systematic and deliberate system by which Ontarians would not benefit from that service that has been in place since Confederation. Consequently the province finds itself with 3,000 kilometres of abandoned rails and yet so little time to explain to the member aside from the

one question on which he focused, the 77 miles of track that will serve the specific purpose. We formed interministerial committees. We've been meeting since 1988 by virtue of the setup that was put forward by the previous administration. In fact, our officials met with Canadian Pacific last week. It's ironic that you should ask the question today.

We're hopeful, with all the sincerity this grave issue demands, that a positive conclusion to address the very alternatives you so eloquently put forward will be—we're talking about a matter of weeks, not a matter of months on this issue. Thank you so very much for the question; very valid indeed.

MOTIONS

APPOINTMENT OF FIRST DEPUTY CHAIR

Mr Cooke moved that Mr Drainville, member for the electoral district of Victoria-Haliburton, be appointed First Deputy Chair of the committee of the whole House.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Interjection: No.

The Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."
In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

PETITIONS

RENT REGULATION

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation, the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

I also affix my own signature to this petition.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of

more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the direct discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

1530

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$15 million over a three-year period represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under that act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost of more than \$15 million over a period of three years must be revoked immediately."

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

I too have affixed my name to this petition.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have another petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I have a petition today with 387 names on it.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, the undersigned, are submitting this petition to protest the certificate of approval granted by the Ministry of the Environment to Bluewater Sanitation for

the storage and spreading of municipal and septic sludge on lots 10 and 11, Concession 11, County Road 4 in Moore township, Bluewater Sanitation has not operated this site in accordance with ministry guidelines, nor has the Ministry of the Environment enforced these guidelines at this site. The certificate of approval, as amended, still lacks consistency. We petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to close this site."

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have part of 100,000 petitions. These are just 2,000 I received in yesterday's mail from the riding of Port Arthur. These are just from the riding of Port Arthur, the riding of the Minister of Revenue for the government. This is a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, of course.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving its interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under this act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

That is signed by over 2,000 residents in the riding of Port Arthur alone, and is part 100,000 petitions I've received to date.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs

in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's second report.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Pursuant to standing order 104(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

1540

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLASS PROCEEDINGS ACT, 1991

LOI DE 1990 SUR LES RECOURS COLLECTIFS

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 28, An Act respecting Class Proceedings / Loi concernant les recours collectifs.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for London South had the floor. He is not present. By rotation, it's the member for Brampton South.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): It gives me great pleasure to rise in this House and speak on a bill that deals with justice. Justice is not given enough priority or importance in this province. It's a matter that most people view as something they don't necessarily or will never come in contact with. For that reason it doesn't achieve the high degree of sexy political hype that many other issues do. Yet I think more and more, as this province moves into the future and as our population increases and as our society becomes much more complex, we're going to discover, and I think governments in the future are going to discover, that the question of justice is something that because it was disregarded and because it was not given a high priority, is going to result in a great deal of unrest in our society.

Bills 28 and 29 were originally initiatives of the former Liberal government, introduced by the former Attorney General, Ian Scott, the member for St George-St David, and I give credit to the present Attorney General for acknowledging the fact that this was originally introduced by him. I have not had an opportunity to really do it line by line to find out whether the present government has made any significant changes to the bill, but I suspect not.

For the benefit of the public generally, the bill would allow an action to be brought by people with a common beef or a common complaint. I suppose the most significant one that comes to mind would be the Ford lemon case where people had purchased Fords and felt the product they had purchased was not one that lived up to the standards that had been advertised, and they wanted to bring an action. They were not able to do that.

There would have to be individual actions brought, and of course that means significant expense to the litigant and significant expense in court time being used to hear each case individually. In some cases it may result in total injustice because people are not able to either get their cases on

or they're not able to personally and individually retain counsel and go through the sometimes costly procedures of a lengthy trial.

It also presents somewhat of a David and Goliath situation because when you're taking on a major industry, one person certainly is less able to do it than perhaps a group of people who have a representative approach to it and perhaps can fund it and also can perhaps give greater impact to it in terms of its notoriety.

One of the items in the bill that I don't agree with and that gives me some concern, and I guess it's been a question of discussion since time immemorial in the legal profession, is the question of contingent fees. I recognize that it's only being introduced into this act in terms of class actions, but I suspect it's on the horizon for actions of another type.

That being the case, the argument against what is known as champerty was the fact that in this country and this province a lawyer's first duty is to the court. You're an officer of the court. Your duty to your client is equally as onerous and high, but you're not to do anything before the court that would in any way mislead the court in order to win the day for your client. It has always been argued, and I think with good common sense, that when you bring in a contingency fee arrangement, or champerty, you may be doing two things.

First of all, you may be encouraging an action by someone where he might not bring that action and may have absolutely tenuous grounds for being able to successfully litigate it. If that is the case, then what's happening is we are encouraging lawyers perhaps to take an opportunity to get into court and take on a brief where the chances of success may be minimal.

We see in the United States—and I suppose this was at the very root cause in some respects of the concerns about the insurance settlements in this country—that the settlements there are significantly higher than they are anywhere else. The reason for it is contingency fees. Lawyers are able to take, I think, a third of the settlement, and of course that induces lawyers to do a number of things: to start out with a \$3 million lawsuit, where maybe \$100,000 or \$200,000 might apply, because a third of it is going to go to them.

I don't want to be perceived as saying that members of the legal profession would do that—that's obviously not something they would do—but if you open the door you may have someone in the legal profession who is unscrupulous enough to do that. That's the reason why historically, from the days of the English common law, it was not perceived to be acceptable that there should be contingency fees, and in fact an act was called by a very nice title, the Champerty Act.

That was an act which said you don't want to needlessly stir up litigants; you want to make certain the cases that get to the court are legitimate, are serious and are going to determine an issue either between two individuals or between an individual and society that is of significant importance to deserve the attention of a court, the resources of a court and the trauma both parties to the litigation go through. Of course by eliminating this, I recognize

it is only being done in Bill 28 by reason of class actions, but I suspect it will become the order of the day for other litigious events.

Having said that, I also recognize that on the other side of the coin, by not allowing contingency fees or not allowing actions to be instituted or spurred on by a lawyer suggesting that a test case should be taken, there may be, first of all, very many ills in our society that require some form of redress that will never be addressed. There may be some forms of injustice in our society that perhaps are not covered by the law and require some action on the part of us as legislators. By eliminating the rules against champerty and the question of contingency fees, you will have allowed those matters to go forward, I think for the betterment of society.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Come on, Bob.

Mr Callahan: The Attorney General says to hurry up. I would think, Mr Attorney General, you would want this debated fully. It's an important issue and it's something we're going to have with us for a significant period of time. I would think you would be very attentive and not tell me to rush and get on with it. That's certainly not the appropriate way for an Attorney General to deal with a member of the Legislature who is discussing one of his bills that he borrowed from the Attorney General of the Liberal government.

I'm going to get on with my comments with reference to the good side of contingency fees and the good side of the abolition of champerty laws, which is for people who up to this point may very well have had a very significant and just cause but have not been able to pursue it because of lack of funds or perhaps because they didn't have anyone who was prepared to come out and directly encourage them to do it and their claims were never litigated.

What happens is the bad guy gets off and the good guy gets nothing. Perhaps in some circumstances, if it's a very significant injury or it's a very significant business loss, that person may very well be required to fall back on the ever-increasingly dwindling resources since September 1990 in terms of being able to support themselves.

I suggest there are two sides of the coin. They each give me some concern, and I've attempted to express why. On the one side, I believe it's perhaps dangerous in opening up the floodgates totally; on the other side of the coin, I think there are people in Ontario and Canada who have suffered as a result of not being able to bring the appropriate litigation.

You can think of cases where people have bought a car from a major car manufacturer and an accident has occurred because of the faulty construction of that vehicle. This may affect tens of thousands of people. We're all familiar with where the major car manufacturers might do a recall on a particular part of a car. One that jumps to mind is, I think, the Firebird, where if you ran into the back of it it would explode. If that's not right, I apologize to Firebird owners, but it was something like that.

I compliment and I have the highest regard for the car manufacturers who do that. But let's say a defect is in the

item and it's not discovered and endless numbers of people suffer injury as a result of it. To require those people to bring individual actions in the courts would tie up our court system unbelievably. It's already tied up beyond belief.

1550

For the benefit of the Attorney General, I would tell him that in the city of Toronto, to get a civil action on, you have to be of good health, you have to have had parents who lived to be 90 and you have to have a long genealogy, because if you don't, you're not going to make it. In fact, as I understand it from speaking to some of the court authorities there, the court system at 361 University Avenue, which is where the major number of trials goes on, is totally gridlocked because the Attorney General—and this is not saying anything against him or his ministry—is trying to get the criminal cases on in order to avoid another Askov.

In the meantime, people's civil cases are not being heard, and civil cases include matrimonial claims. Matrimonial claims can be very acrimonious. They can be the source of serious injury, death and so on, so they should be dealt with in a very prompt fashion. As well, in a matrimonial claim there are often young children involved; it's a matter that should be cleared up for them in the promptest fashion. It's very important that legislation that's brought in addresses somewhat the question of how we would use our courtrooms to the utmost. In that respect, Bill 28 is applauded as an innovative measure for dealing with this.

I have to go back and say that the concern I have is that it's a bill that was brought forward by the Attorney General in the Liberal government. It's only now getting before this Legislature for second reading. It will go to committee obviously. It will then get third reading, and we could be looking at the implementation of this bill, if we are lucky, perhaps by the fall of 1992 or perhaps by the fall of 1993.

In the meantime, what's happening is that people are resorting to their own methods of resolving civil claims, and that may be not a bad idea either. We are seeing more and more people resorting to mediation and arbitration, which are lumped under the general heading of alternative dispute mechanism. Maybe that's the plan. Maybe it's not a bad idea, Attorney General. If you allow the courts to continue to be backlogged, that may be a way of forcing people into resorting to these alternative measures. In fact, it fits in well. I see the Minister of Labour sitting next to you, and that fits in well with the way labour relations are carried on. Maybe that's the agenda of the day; we are going to eliminate courts and we'll go to the way unions negotiate collective agreements with business. Who knows? Maybe that's the wave of the future.

I want to say, Attorney General, that this bill does go a long way towards advancing the cause of justice, but not far enough. You and your government have to be prepared to recognize the importance of justice on a civil plane, on a criminal plane, in its totality: the appointment of judges, the creation of courthouses, the creation of backup facilities for those courthouses.

If we continue to view justice, be it civil or criminal, and if the Attorney General's budget is about 2% of the overall budget of the province—I believe it was 1% during the days of the Conservative reign; they gave even less consideration of the question of justice. To the credit of the Liberal government and to the credit of the former Attorney General, he managed to get it to 2%. Howie, I'm expecting big things from you.

I would hope the Treasurer would take a look down the long pipe of the future and say to himself—and after reading a copy of Bonfire of the Vanities, which I keep trying to get everybody in this House to read and see what happened in the south Bronx in the United States. Their justice system didn't disappear simply because of their being in the south Bronx or in the United States. Their justice system went downhill because they did exactly what we're doing now; they gave very little attention to the question of justice. They gave a little bit of a pat on the back to the judges. Every now and then they'd throw them a few morsels. They appointed a few more judges to take the stress off the judges who were hearing all the cases.

They erected courthouses fit for human habitation instead of the one I've got in my riding at 141 Clarence Street where there was in fact a battle between the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of the Environment over whether it was fit to even be in there. People were occupying that building such as the guards in the cells, judges and staff, who were in fact choking on the quality of air in that building. Talk about safety in the workplace; there was no safety in the workplace. Despite promises, it took a while for that to be rectified. I understand it's now better. I'm not sure it's 100%.

How can we expect people first of all to have respect for justice if the people working in the system are so overburdened, stressed out or burned out that they have difficulty because they've got to hear 10, 12 and 15 cases a day? That's an impossibility. Human beings are not able to do that. You hear the public out there complaining that judges only work from, say, 10 to 4. I suggest, with all due respect, that any human being sitting in a courtroom from 10 till 4 making decisions that may very well have an impact on the settlement someone's going to get for a very serious injury, or their freedom, is a very trying event. It's not like going out to the office and putting in a 9 to 5 and maybe taking a coffee break. The stress level is much higher.

I suggest that justice has got to be given a very much higher priority by every government, not just the present government but future governments and the federal justice system. The other thing is that if the people in the system are overloaded, overworked, or given poor working conditions, they do the human thing and perhaps bark a little at a litigant. What type of respect does that create for the overall view of justice? We all sit here thinking about budgets, and tomorrow of course will be a very significant day in the province of Ontario with budget day coming down; Mr Laughren coming in here to roll the dice and perhaps award the whip trip of the month. But it's not as important as justice.

Attorney General, I applaud this act. I applaud Bill 29 which is also going to give people access to the courts. I applaud that, but it's only a baby step. You've only started to walk. You've got to do more. You've got to claim more money from Mr Laughren. Mr Laughren has to understand, as does every member of this Legislature—all you have to do is look back five or 10 years to Toronto the Good. There were no murders, or maybe one or two. Right now, what was it, 68 murders to this point in the year in Toronto? What has happened? Clearly that's a signal that we are not giving significant importance to the administration of justice and we are not providing adequate funding.

I know people in this place tend to plan for the mandate. The mandate can be four years; it could even be five years. I'm sure in the case of the present government they'll go right down to the minute. In fact, they'll lose their slipper as they're running out of here before they call an election. In any event, they tend to look at things in terms of mandates. The problem is that we can't afford to look in terms of mandates, not in consideration of justice.

1600

We had a resolution debated in this House—I can't remember whose it was; I think it was the third party's—about the question of crime on our streets and the fact that we can't walk safely in our streets. Well, Mr Attorney, I suggest to you that the entire issue has arisen because of the low priority that is being placed on justice, even the low priority in terms of where they go after the justice system, after they've been dealt with.

The correctional system: What are we doing about that? Where are the big dollars for the correctional system? Where are the future OCLs, the Ontario correctional institutes? Why haven't we got more of them in place to deal in a humane way with the people who are sick, mentally ill, people we let out to wander the streets? We don't provide the backup, the support for them; they wind up in conflict with the law.

I suggest to you, Mr Attorney, that Bill 28 and Bill 29 are very important. I'm glad you brought them forward. I'm glad you moved forward the bill that the former Attorney General had brought before the House and that unfortunately did not proceed because of the election. I'm glad to see that it's going to be coming forward. But I want to see this as the cornerstone, Mr Attorney, of the start of your career in reaching out to give justice a very much more high priority. I want to see the Treasurer squirming under your iron fist of asking for money for the justice system, because if you don't do that—

Hon Mr Hampton: Give it up, Bob.

Mr Callahan: I'm trying to help you, Howie. If you don't do that, we're going to see—I'd like to do a *déjà vu*. I'd like to be able to move us from right now to five years from now, when many of us will not be here. Margie will be here, but many of us will not be here. There may be changes of seats, you know. We may be on that side; more than likely we will be, or whatever. But in any event, Attorney, you have come here at great expense from Fort Frances to give of yourself, to give probably the best years of your life and your legal career, to go through conflicts

with people in your ministry—one that's at rest, finally—to be stressed by those things, Minister.

One would think it would be your highest obligation and your highest dream to attempt to take our justice system, civil and criminal, and see that it's funded properly, see that it's organized properly, see that it's going to be something you can point to for your children five years from now and say: "I did that. I saved you from murders in Toronto being 144. I helped. I did something. I didn't see charges thrown out by the thousands because of the backlogs of the courts. I didn't see victims who were totally devastated by the fact that their case never got to court, that the person who'd injured them or caused them ill was never prosecuted."

We don't want to see that again, Attorney, and I'm sure you don't. I commend you; you did a good job. I can't talk about your government, but I think you did the right thing. But you can't let that happen again, and the only way you're going to do it is by bringing forward more progressive legislation, legislation such as Bill 28 and Bill 29, in order to speed up the system, in order to make the system flow in a better fashion, in order to guarantee that people's rights are going to be dealt with promptly and fairly and that the result is going to be one that will be sure. There's nothing more agonizing than a lawsuit which continues for years and years. People are under stress. It may take years off their lives just waiting for that result.

We have to have justice that is clear, speedy and fair. I suggest that Bill 28 goes a long way towards ensuring that. It goes a long way to providing relief for people such as those in the tragedy in Bhopal. This type of legislation, had that happened in Ontario, would have given them a considerable leg up in terms of being able to get their issue before the courts.

Look at the question that has come to the fore about implants for women and the disastrous effect that's having on women in terms of their worrying about it, in terms of the lengthy discussion and debate about it, with one government saying, "Let's continue them," and the government of Canada, I think, saying no. When are they going to get their day in court? When are they going to be entitled to compensation if it's shown that was a negligent process? Does each one of them have to bring her own separate action? No, because the Attorney General has been wise enough to bring forward the progressive legislation that was started by Attorney General Ian Scott under the Liberal government and is now moving it forward.

But it's not moving forward fast enough. It can't be the end. You have to see this as just the start. This has got to be just the start. You can't quit here. You've just hit a single; you want to get home. The way to get home is by bringing in more progressive legislation, by impressing upon that kind gentleman in the front row, the fellow with the purse-strings, that justice has to be a priority.

You can't react because the press sees that the crime rate has gone up or the press sees that people are being denied justice; you have to react now, you have to plan for it. Justice is really what keeps us from going back into the trees. It's the buttress between us being civilized and uncivilized. If we give such a low priority to justice, as has

been the case, then you can expect to get the same mirror image out on your streets. It won't be safe for people to walk; it won't be safe for people to let their children out on the streets lest they be harassed.

So I suggest to you that to a large degree this is a step forward, but it is not one that we can simply give up on. We've got to work cooperatively. Every member of this Legislature has to recognize that justice is that important. I didn't make up the time immemorial phrase, "Justice delayed is justice denied." It's simply something that's obvious to anyone. I think that for too long we've overlooked it.

I listened to the Agenda for People by this government when it was sworn in, and I had great visions of things happening. I was ecstatic over the things they were going to do, and I said to myself, "This is the government that's going to do great things for justice, because it believes in justice." Yet, what have I seen?

I see one bill—28 and 29—coming before this Legislature. I notice that the bill was given its first reading December 17, 1990; that was the first reading when it was reintroduced after the election of September 1990. Its second reading was on November 18, 1991. I note that someone placed on the bill the following: "This bill was introduced in the first session of this Legislature. It has been continued as a bill of the second session by an order of the Legislature." In other words, what we've done is continued the bill when it was a matter that—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): There's been a budget leak. Can we take a second, Mr Speaker, please?

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Yes.

Mr Callahan: Something of urgency has come up. I'll sit down.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I would like to move adjournment of the debate at this time.

The Acting Speaker: Has the honourable member for Brampton South completed his remarks?

Mr Callahan: I consent that the debate be adjourned.

The Acting Speaker: Are you then moving adjournment of this debate?

Mr Callahan: No. I yield the floor.

1610

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? Comments and/or questions? Further debate?

Mr Stockwell: I would like to move adjournment of the debate at this time.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Etobicoke West has moved adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members; a 30-minute bell.

1640

The House divided on Mr Stockwell's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 38; nays 59.

BUDGET SECURITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I have some very serious information that I'd like to bring to the attention of the House. I've received in my—

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Are we continuing with the debate?

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I ask the House to come to order. The Attorney General, do you have a point of order?

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: Mr Speaker, I am waiting patiently for the debate on Bill 28. I would just assume that the debate is going to be on the bill.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think there are some interesting points to be made in the Legislative Assembly this afternoon. While I can understand the necessity of the Attorney General reminding us all of the importance of Bill 28, which we were originally called to assemble here for, I think that it is necessary for us to now listen to the person who has the floor and wishes to make the points about what is happening. I think that his interruptions—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member for Bruce—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the Attorney General and to the member for Bruce, there is nothing out of order. We are indeed resuming the debate on Bill 28 and the member for Etobicoke West has the floor to do just that.

Mr Stockwell: Contained in this document I have right now are matters that certainly deal with Bills 28 and 29. They have very much to do with the class proceedings and I think it is very important that the members across the floor give me the opportunity of speaking at this point in time.

I have in my hands, which was brown-enveloped to my office today, copies of the expenditure portion of the 1992-93 budget for Ontario. These expenditure portions include some of the issues surrounding Bills 28 and 29, which is the issue I'm speaking to right now. The estimates include the amounts that are going to be spent in Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Health, Community and Social Services, Citizenship, Colleges and Universities and in the Attorney General's office. These are minutes of a meeting of the treasury board held in the seventh-floor boardroom of the Frost Building South on Tuesday, March 31, 1992, at 8 am.

Included and present at that meeting were our Treasurer, Mr Laughren, Ms Boyd, the Minister of Community and Social Services, Mr Cooke, the House leader, Ms Lankin, the Minister of Health, Mr Philip, Minister of—

The Speaker: Would the member for Etobicoke West take his seat, please. The member is reminded that we are

on Bill 28, third reading, and the member should confine his remarks to that bill and to no other matter.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: What is alleged here is a major invasion of the privileges of the House, if true. I think what we are entitled to have as a democratic assembly is a response by a minister of the crown to what is being alleged. It may not be the Treasurer if he's not present, and it can't be the Premier, but it has to be a response to the reality of this present situation. It has to be given. It's given in every democratic Parliament in the western world. It can't be finessed by simply saying we're going to talk about class actions until tomorrow.

I plead with a minister of the crown to respond on behalf of the government, as a matter of our privileges and the privileges of the members opposite, to what has happened. I make no judgement about it. I simply ask for a response. It must be forthcoming in accordance with our traditions.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. While I appreciate the concern raised by the member for St George-St David, I cannot find that there is a loss of his privileges. I have a responsibility to maintain the orders of the day, which at this stage is the debate on Bill 28, third reading. The member for Etobicoke West at this point has the floor to continue the debate on Bill 28.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): On the point of privilege raised by the member for St George-St David, Mr Speaker: I have reviewed the document the opposition parties are indicating is a leak of the 1992 budget and I can assure the members of the Legislature—

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): No one alleged that yet, David. These are the underlying documents.

Hon Mr Cooke: The member just did.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Just shut up and listen for a change.

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): Telling another member to shut up—that is terrible.

The Speaker: Order. As your Speaker, I am certainly aware that there is a sensitive matter that's been brought to the attention of all members of the House, and I believe that the members collectively would like to express a will and desire to deal with the matter as best they can. Intemperate language does not assist us in that quest, and I ask the government House leader to continue.

1650

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, in my view, there is no point of privilege with regard to the material that has been distributed by the Conservative member for Etobicoke West. I should point out that what have been released are minutes from a treasury board meeting dated March 31. The first point to be made on the estimates that have been released—and these are draft estimates, they are not final estimates. They were not approved. Those were not the estimates that were approved by cabinet. They were approved perhaps by treasury board, but treasury board then

reports to cabinet. Those are not the final estimates, but I think more important than even that is that the estimates are tabled in this Legislature after the budget is tabled. They are separate documents, as you would know, Mr Speaker.

This was the first round of the decisions to be made with respect to ministries' authorized expenditures. It doesn't include things like the amount of the public debt or the interest cost on the public debt. It doesn't include figures like the contingency fund. It doesn't include things like the cost of running the Legislature, which are estimates as well.

In short, the document that has been released is not the budget. It is not the completed estimates. There were subsequent changes made to the expenditure decisions by the government after that document was reported to cabinet, so there is no way that an argument could be made that there has been a budget leak with respect to the budget that will be tabled in this House tomorrow at 4 o'clock and not a minute before.

The Speaker: Is this on a new matter, the member for Bruce?

Mr Elston: On the same point, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, unless it is new information, I've already ruled that there is no point of privilege and we are in fact in the midst of a debate on Bill 28.

Mr Elston: It is in fact new information, if you consider the fact that I spent some two years in dealing with estimates before the Management Board of Cabinet, which in fact these are sort of representative of. These are treasury board but these are expenditure side associated with the budgetary process of Ontario. These are the documents that go into fulfilling the decisions that are taken by policy and priorities board of cabinet, by cabinet and by others, including the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the staff associated with his environs. These are the budgetary decisions that have been taken with respect to the Attorney General.

These are the background materials required to create the necessary numbers to fulfil the completion of the Treasurer's document. The Treasurer set some broad parameters. These represent, in considerable detail, the working drawings, the plans that the builders of this province work with day by day to fulfil the needs of our provincial capital accumulations, to fulfil the needs of our social programs, to deal with all of the hirings and firings that are required in this province.

For instance, we talk about net decreases for annualizations of \$62,964,000 with respect to base approvals of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. This document says more to those individuals who have been involved in the consultation process than is apparent on the face. The details of this stuff for knowledgeable individuals—and we are talking about knowledgeable individuals who would know what to look for in budgets, to know what to trigger in respect to investments in this province, to know what to look for in terms of where the movements are

going in capital investment and otherwise to make bids for capital projects or otherwise—are contained herein.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader is not fully explicit with all of the information that falls from these documents, that veritably drips into the public domain and that benefits those people who more quickly have access to it than others. That's what we have to discover here. All we're asking is that everybody in Ontario now be allowed the same opportunity by receiving the full budgetary plan of the province. For the sake of fairness and clarity and helpfulness, it has to be done.

The Speaker: I have listened carefully to both the government House leader and the House leader for the official opposition, and I must say it appears to be the situation that some members of the assembly have in their possession a document which is the subject of some discussion and debate. That document and that debate is not a part of the order at which we now find ourselves, namely, the third reading debate on Bill 28. There is nothing out of order. There is no privilege any member of the House has lost. The member for Etobicoke West has the floor to continue Bill 28.

Mr Stockwell: It was all totally out of order.

Now, Mr Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order and seek your guidance. My point is very clear and I would ask you to hear it out. We have had, in my opinion, three very serious leaks about this 1992-93 budget. I seek your guidance on this point of order. First, there was some concern about a conference call outlined in the House today. Second, I have before me these documents that go to form the framework of the budget that will be read tomorrow by the Treasurer of Ontario. These are documents that show approvals of certain expenditures and approvals of certain reductions of some expenditures, and these documents are in fact the framework for this budget. We now hear that CBC news in fact has documented evidence of the revenue portion of this budget and will be releasing it in some one hour's time.

Mr Speaker, my request to you is simply this: Considering this documentation I have before me, I would like to recommend, through you, that the House adjourn for one hour's time in order that the Treasurer can come forward this afternoon and table his budget today, considering the serious leaks of information that have come out in the past few hours.

I'm not quite done. I ask this government and all fair-minded members of this House to review the information that we've been provided and they would agree that the information that is now very public forms the fabric of his budget announcement tomorrow. No one in this House could argue that the information we have here today is anything less than a very serious breach of budget security. I ask for that direction.

The Speaker: Would the members please take their seats. I will deal with points of order one at a time. To his point of order? Briefly, please.

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): The government members have tried to indicate that this document is a draft document, that it is something that was put forward

for approval by cabinet. I think it's important to know that the people present when all these approvals were made or when all the disapprovals were made were Mr Laughren, the Treasurer of Ontario, who was the chair of that meeting, Miss Boyd, Mr Cooke, Miss Lankin, Mr Philip and Mr Silipo, the cabinet ministers in this government who have responsibility for the treasury board, who have responsibility for the major expenditures of this government. It would be ludicrous to assume that they would make these approvals, take it to cabinet and somebody would overturn it. Who is there to overturn it?

Interjection.

The Speaker: No. Would the member take his seat, please.

1700

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the member for Etobicoke West and the member for Wilson Heights, there are two particular aspects to the point of order you raised.

The first is that you have reiterated your concerns about a particular document. The document is a subject of debate. This is not the time for such a debate, as we are already in the midst of a particular order of the day.

The second matter the member for Etobicoke West raised was the matter of an adjournment. Normally the ordering of the business of the House is dealt with by way of a three House leaders' meeting, and if indeed the three House leaders wish to conduct a meeting to discuss the events for the rest of this day, of course they have the ability to so do.

There is nothing out of order. I ask the member for Etobicoke West, if he wishes to continue to have the floor, that he address his remarks to the third reading of Bill 28 and to no other subject matter.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me the floor.

Mr Sorbara: On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Will the member for Etobicoke West take his seat. I will recognize the member for St George-St David and trust that it is on some other matter. I have dealt with the matter already.

Mr Scott: No. During the course of this debate on class actions—this is, I think, a real point of privilege—the honourable member for Etobicoke West, after he got through the business that you said was not in order, then said that he understood the revenue portions of the budget were going to be released on the CBC in one hour. If that is false and not true, there may be no difficulty. If it is true and the government does nothing in the face of that allegation, the budget is completely aborted. The only solution in the interests of a democratic assembly confronted by that information from an honourable member is for the government to read the budget now. It will take 20 minutes, and they can beat it.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. To the member for St George-St David, dealing with the reality of items that are brought to my attention is challenging enough without dealing with hypothetical issues.

The member for York Centre with his brief point of order.

Mr Sorbara: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It arises out of the Orders and Notices before this House. It includes the notice that we've received from the Treasurer that he had intended, sir, to read his budget tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock. I simply say to the Speaker that in view of the fact that there have already been a number of leaks of the budget and that we are now in possession of a document which, contrary to what the government House leader has said, is not recommendations to the cabinet, I would remind him, sir, through you, that treasury board and Management Board have a special relationship with cabinet. They approve expenditures. If I might, sir—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. I realize the member's interest in these matters. I have dealt with this and we are moving on with third reading.

Mr Elston: A point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: A point of order, the member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I wish to ask your advice, Mr Speaker, whether it would be in order, in discussing Bills 28 and 29, if the honourable member for Etobicoke West could address himself to the budgetary aspects of these estimates and how it would affect the Attorney General in dealing with the principles of those bills. Is it also in order, Mr Speaker, because of the types of activity that are going on, that he then move to deal with the issues of the budgetary realm contained herein with respect to other ministries that are associated—

The Speaker: Will the member for Bruce take his seat, please. I appreciate the member's interest—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre, please come to order.

Interjection.

The Speaker: I asked the member for York Centre to come to order.

To the member for Bruce, I appreciate your interest in assisting other members of the assembly in structuring their debate. At this point, the member for Etobicoke West is being invited to contribute to the debate on third reading of Bill 28. The member for Carleton.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: We are in a very unusual situation here. What we're trying to do and what the member for Etobicoke West would like to do, is give the Treasurer of this province an opportunity to bail out of a problem which is his responsibility. If the Treasurer comes in this afternoon and reads the budget, then perhaps he will not have to resign tomorrow if the information which we have received today is contained therein.

Therefore we, as parliamentarians, are trying to assist the Treasurer. Our concern is that citizens of Ontario are not penalized by the advance information which has been leaked today and which we know is going to be leaked at 6 o'clock this evening. Therefore, the member for Etobicoke West, while he has the floor, is quite willing to put forward

a motion to adjourn this House to allow the Treasurer to come into this Legislature and divulge the contents of his budget and therefore cut off or terminate any damage that can be done by this leaked information.

The Speaker: I appreciate the member for Carleton's advice and certainly his offer to assist other members in the assembly. There is nothing out of order. I ask the member for Etobicoke West to contribute to the debate on Bill 28.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: I trust this is on a different matter.

Mrs Sullivan: It is indeed on a different matter, although an associated one. I've worked in the preparation of budgets, and I know how very cautious one has to be about maintaining the secrecy of the information therein. The documents we have indicate capital spending of \$200 million in Health, \$275 million in Government Services—

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat, please. There is nothing out of order. Would the member take her seat, please.

Mrs Sullivan: I want to tell you, Mr Speaker—

The Speaker: I am asking you to take your seat. If the member chooses to be disrespectful to the Chair, the member will be asked to be withdrawn.

Mrs Sullivan: The Treasurer—

The Speaker: The member is leaving me no alternative but to name her if she chooses to show disrespect for the Chair. The member for Halton Centre, who chooses to show disrespect for the Chair, has left me with no alternative but to name her. Mrs Sullivan, you are named. Would you please voluntarily withdraw yourself from the House and from all proceedings of the House for the balance of this day. Sergeant, would you escort the member from the House.

Mrs Sullivan left the chamber.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I ask the House to come to order.

1710

Mr Stockwell: I have done my best to assist this government with respect to this serious budget leak. They don't understand that they are faced with one of the most serious budget leaks in the history of this province. I have no choice—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

The member for Etobicoke West has moved adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Call in the members; a 30-minute bell.

1740

The House divided on Mr Stockwell's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 38; nays 60.

Hon Mr Cooke: On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: If I might, with the unanimous consent of the House, the Treasurer would like to make a short statement to the House. I'm sure the opposition parties would like to respond.

The Speaker: I might draw to all members' attention that in order for us to sit—I ask the House to come to order—beyond 6 of the clock, it requires unanimous consent of the members.

Mr Sterling: We had not given unanimous consent to this motion. We are quite willing to agree to a motion to extend the hour past 6 of the clock in order for each of the opposition parties to respond to the Treasurer. If the government House leader would like to put the motion, we are willing to agree.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, I suggest it's a quarter to 6; if each party took five minutes, that's even division of the time.

The Speaker: Treasurer.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Mr Speaker, a point of privilege.

The Speaker: Point of privilege? Would the Treasurer take his seat. There seems to be some confusion with respect to whether or not unanimous consent is available for the Treasurer to make a statement. I will ask again: Is there unanimous consent for the Treasurer to make a statement? Agreed?

Mr Sterling: No, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: The member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I will agree and my party will agree if the Treasurer confines his remarks to five minutes and gives five minutes to each of the opposition parties. We think that's fair.

Hon Mr Cooke: I agree to agree with myself. That's what I offered three or four minutes ago.

The Speaker: Since we're all very agreeable now, the Treasurer.

Hon Mr Laughren: I appreciate the cooperation of all members in allowing me to make a statement at this late hour on the eve of the Ontario budget.

There has been some discussion in this chamber this afternoon because, as I understand it, there is a portion of minutes from the treasury board meeting of March 31. That treasury board meeting minute includes with it some estimates—I don't think all of them, but I'm not sure; I haven't seen roughly half of the estimates that were dealt with that the opposition have, and I gather that the media has as well. Those estimates, while they largely reflect what will be the finished product with estimates, don't totally or completely reflect—

Mr Elston: At least you could tell the truth.

Hon Mr Laughren: If I could finish—they don't totally, accurately reflect exactly what will be in the final estimates package. However, I think in view of the fact that there's a sense among members—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: In view of the fact that there's a sense among members that this will be seen as an abuse of the privileges of the members if half of them were floating around out there before they'd been tabled—and I appreciate that; I think if I were back in opposition I'd be concerned about the process as well.

Mr Elston: You should be now, too.

Hon Mr Laughren: I am. That's why I'm trying to make this statement.

What I would propose to the House is that tomorrow, when the budget is brought down, the entire estimates package be brought down at the same time. I should say that this would be a precedent in this jurisdiction. It would not be a precedent in other jurisdictions—in Quebec, for example—where sometimes the estimates are tabled even prior to the budget. I think that would be the fairest way in which to handle it. The estimates themselves are not the budget. I don't think there's any debate about that.

While I'm on my feet, I understand as well that there is some kind of letter or document floating around that deals with rules to tighten up loopholes in the existing Retail Sales Tax Act, affectionately known as the curbsider package. I have not seen that, so I'm somewhat at a disadvantage in talking about it in any kind of detail. But as I understand it, it's not an excerpt from the budget. Whether it's in the budget or not will unfold tomorrow.

If I could conclude, in keeping with the time constraint and to give the opposition members ample time to respond to my statement, I confess there are going to be some problems with printing, because we thought we had until May 11 to get the entire estimates package printed and bound. We are working and trying to get that done in the next 24 hours or less to see if we can—

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): You want to change them.

Hon Mr Laughren: No, not to change them; that would be silly—get them bound and printed properly and tabled in this House tomorrow. We couldn't simply do it before then anyway; we're struggling with that. There may be some photocopying that will have to be done. But we'll try very hard—and I'll make that commitment—to table it. It's a question of how many copies we'll have then, but we'll try to make sure there are copies available tomorrow afternoon when the budget is tabled.

I thought that would be an appropriate way in which to resolve the matter—I'm sure not to everyone's satisfaction, but I think it deals with the question of the members' privileges being abused by a partial release of estimates to people other than members of the House. We'll get those out as quickly as possible—the entire package, not just the partial package, and the one that will be the final package,

not one to which there will still have to be changes made, which I think is the case in the half package that is out there floating around now.

1750

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, this is not simply a question of members' privileges and it doesn't simply affect the exchange of information within this Legislature. This is a question of confidence in the general public of Ontario.

We began this day by saying that we were not going to pursue the issue of whether or not the story in the Toronto Star in fact constituted a leak of confidential budget information; we were not prepared to put our energy or effort into finding out whether a confidential source had released specific budget information. We said that what we wanted to do was to focus on the whole question of the impact of the Treasurer's budget on the people of this province and what we fully expected to see in that budget tomorrow.

But this day has been one long series of suggestions that there has been information confidential to the budget, or information which at the very least is background information to a budget, and the question that gets larger and larger as more and more of this information is released is, how much more information is out there? What other aspects of what should be a very confidential document are now in the public domain, but in the public domain in a very selective way? If there is a significant leak of the confidentiality of budget information, if only a handful of people, if only select people, know more about what is in this budget than the people who are in this House today or than the broader general public does, what kind of influence does that have on people's actions over the next 24 hours?

This is not a budget document that we have before us right now. We are not saying to the Treasurer that this is a final budget document. We know that this is a treasury board set of minutes. We fully expect that both the kind of information that appeared in the Toronto Star this morning and the kind of information that appears in the treasury board minutes today will be found in the Treasurer's budget document tomorrow and that will be at that time confirmation of whether or not serious confidential information has been leaked to whatever sources.

In the next 24-hour period there is going to be considerable concern among the people of this province. I can tell you that in the last hour the phones have been ringing off the hook. People want to know what there is to know. If there is information to be accessed, they want to have reasonable access to it. The only way the Treasurer can end the uncertainty of people in this province about what he is going to release in that budget tomorrow is to in fact table that budget today.

I regret to have to say that somehow this doesn't come as a surprise. As I suggested in my questions this afternoon, in spite of the Treasurer's obvious concern for the security of the budget and the fact that \$200,000 in OPP protection was provided to ensure that there would be security, it just seems to us to be part and parcel of a continuous pattern of mismanagement of the affairs of this

province by this government. It is part and parcel, Mr Premier, of a clear mismanagement and a lack of control of information. It's clear indication of the lack of understanding of this government and of its senior staff as to just how to handle the sensitive issues they are dealing with in their ministries, and I would ask that the Treasurer and his government take one step today in exercising some good judgement and restoring some sense of confidence to the people of this province by ending the uncertainty about this budget document over the next 24 hours.

After the next 24 hours are over, after we've determined whether or not there has been a significant leak of confidential information, after we've begun to assess the impact of this budget on people, which really is our focus and is the main concern we have, then we are going to suggest to the Premier that he might want to undertake a very full, very thorough investigation of this particular issue, of the way in which sensitive budget information has been handled, the way in which the Treasurer has carried out his responsibilities in ensuring the confidentiality of this budget.

But beyond that, again, we are going to suggest that the Premier might want to carry out a full and thorough review of the way in which the members of this government handle the affairs of this province and particularly handle the information.

Mr Elston: Just to fill in 30 seconds, but with a point which I think needs to be addressed: In the event it is borne out that these materials are more or less accurate—and I understand that to have been what the Treasurer said—I think he must at least speak with the people at the Ontario Securities Commission and make the inquiry as to whether there should be any necessary action taken to deal with the prospect of trading going on there with confidential information being made available not only through this forum but perhaps through other releases of documents which this may very well have disguised.

Mr Stockwell: Let me begin by saying it's very clear that when speaking about a budget, very few people, if any, differentiate between the expenditure and revenue sides. They're both considered classified budget information. We should cast our minds back to Friday, May 6, 1983, in this Legislature, when the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bob Rae, was discussing budget leaks and budget security. He said:

"Security has very clearly been breached, and because of this breach we cannot be sure what other information may be available for people to use for their personal or institutional gain. Indeed, the entire budget process has been poisoned by this most unfortunate episode."

I don't think I could have said it better myself.

In the past 24 hours we have had at least three occasions to find potential budget leaks. We have a very serious budget leak before us today. This is not potential, this is concrete and hard evidence. These are proposals for expenditures the Treasurer himself has suggested will basically make up the framework for the 1992-93 budget. Those are the kind of words the Treasurer used to describe this document.

Mr Treasurer, Mr Rae went on to say: "Budget secrecy symbolizes that fairness, justice and the principle of respect for the Legislature and the privileges of the members therein. It symbolizes British fair play."

What we have before us today is a very serious budget leak. I believe it is incumbent on this Treasurer to today bring forward the budget and outline exactly what the 1992-93 budget is at this time. He should table the budget, because information included in these estimates could very easily be used for public gain, in my opinion. The question will be how.

There are reductions and increases included in these estimates to budgets within departments, within ministries. There are probably many private sector operators out there who deal directly with each individual ministry, based on significant amounts of business done for ministries, and if they had a copy of this they would determine in their own minds whether there's a reduction or expansion or any money in the budget this year for their personal business, their personal gain.

It is written in our record that the estimates would come some five days after the budget is tabled. The Treasurer offering today to simply table those estimates tomorrow at 4 o'clock as some kind of acceptance, some kind of performance that allows him to distance himself from this breach, is unacceptable to my party and, I believe, to the people in the province of Ontario.

Let me say very clearly that there can be potential gain if you access this information, but the final and most important point is, how do we know this is all? How do we know this is the only leak? How do we know there wasn't a further leak? We know for a fact that we received this today. Who else is out there with information who shouldn't have that kind of information and could potentially gain from that information?

I can only suggest to this government, which in opposition was very clear and defined in how to react to budget leaks, that it does the same thing it insisted previous governments do. This is a flood; it's not simply a leak. They should react accordingly.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
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Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philp, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziembra, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
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Règlements et projets de loi privés**

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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
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Chair/Président: Charles Beer
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Wednesday 29 April 1992

Education reform	
Mrs O'Neill	432
Mrs Cunningham	432
Mr Jackson	433
Visitor	433
The Speaker	
Member's privilege	433
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	

Budget	434
Mrs McLeod	
Mr Laughren	
Taxation	435
Mrs McLeod	
Mr Laughren	
Budget security	436
Mr Stockwell	
Mr Laughren	
Budget	437
Mr Phillips	
Mr Laughren	
Budget security	438
Mr Stockwell	
Mr Laughren	
Job creation	438
Ms Carter	
Mr Charlton	
Economic policy	439
Mr Mahoney	
Mr Laughren	
Budget security	439
Mr Stockwell	
Mr Laughren	
Proceeds of crime	440
Mr Mammoliti	
Mr Pilkey	
Automotive industry	440
Mr Bradley	
Mr Philip	
Budget security	441
Mr Runciman	
Mr Laughren	
Mr Harnick	
Abandoned railway lines	442
Mr Klopp	
Mr Pouliot	

Appointment of First Deputy	
Chair	442
Mr Cooke	
Agreed to	442

Rent regulation	442
Mr Mancini	
French-language services	442
Mr Runciman	
Mr Murdoch	
Mrs Marland	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	
Mr Runciman	
Waste disposal	443
Mrs MacKinnon	
French-language services	444
Mr Jackson	
Mr Murdoch	

**Standing committee on
government agencies444**
Mr Runciman
Deemed adopted444

Class Proceedings Act, 1991,	
Bill 28	444
Mr Callahan	444
Deemed adjourned	448

Budget security	
Mr Stockwell	448
Mr Scott	449
Mr Cooke	449
Mr Elston	449
Mr Laughren	452
Mrs McLeod	453

Le mercredi 29 avril 1992

Services en français	427
M. Grandmaître	
École secondaire publique	
Charlebois	428
M. McGuinty	



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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 30 April 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le jeudi 30 avril 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues may be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 325-7400.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 30 April 1992

The House met at 1000.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS FISCAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Carr moved resolution 7:

That, in the opinion of this House, given that the previous Liberal government and the present NDP government have contributed to the high taxation, high government spending and high unemployment in the province of Ontario through their tax, spend and borrow approach to fiscal management, this government should introduce the following measures to bring prosperity back to Ontario:

—Commit to a policy of achieving deficit reduction through expenditure controls and not through tax increases.

—Avoid hiking taxes or introducing new taxes.

—Introduce legislation to cap and, where necessary, to roll back wage increases in the broader public sector to hold wage hikes to the level of the transfer payment increases announced by the Treasurer on January 21.

—Provide tax relief for the retail, tourism and small business sectors through reductions in the provincial sales and gasoline taxes.

—Abandon its proposed changes to Ontario labour law, proposals which are only helping to fuel the exodus of business and investment from Ontario.

—Restructure the provincial welfare system to make more productive use of social assistance dollars by financing wage subsidies for employers who hire social assistance recipients.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Pursuant to standing order 94(c), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I am pleased to introduce this resolution into the House. It's appropriate that I do it on a day when we have a budget coming later today, which I suspect will not incorporate many of these resolutions. But I hope some of the things we talk about will offer some of the direction I believe this province should be taking.

I do it as a bit of a backdrop and talk a little bit about the fiscal problems we're facing by the Liberals in this resolution somewhat reluctantly, but I think it is important that we take a look at where we're at today and how we got into this situation.

Make no mistake about it: Ontario is in trouble. Our economy is being battered by high taxation, high government spending, high unemployment and low productivity. Our social structures are being stretched to the limit because of soaring costs for health, education and welfare. The issues of crime and poverty seem to be growing faster than we can respond to them.

In spite of this, we still have one of the highest standards of living of any people on this planet, but our time is short. As these pressures continue to mount, many of Ontario's blessings are now at risk.

One of the reasons we have the problems we are going to hear about later today with the high taxation is because of high government spending. I have in front of me the growth of program spending over the last five years in the province of Ontario. Most people can't see it, but if you were to get a close look at it you would see that Ontario spent more than any other province, 10.6%; Alberta, 3.8%.

I introduce this because I believe today we are facing a crisis. We have had one philosophy since 1985: Anything that moved, we taxed it; if it still moved, we regulated it.

I see the member for Sudbury East laughing at that. Later today I think we'll see even more of that.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Sudbury, not Sudbury East.

Mr Carr: Sorry. Sudbury, not to be mixed up with Sudbury East.

In 1985 we had a 10% tax advantage over the province of Quebec and we were rated very competitive versus West Germany, Japan and the surrounding United States. Today, as we sit here, we are the highest-taxed province in Canada and the highest-taxed jurisdiction in all of North America. In spite of that, we have a deficit that up to this point is costing us about \$15,000 a minute just to service. That's not for the good roads, health care or the education system; to pay the interest alone costs us \$15,000 a minute and we will hear later today at 4 o'clock how that is going up.

All the things we care about—good roads, the health care system, hospitals, the environment; all those things—don't depend upon the compassion of government, as this government is finding out. It does, however, depend on having a healthy and prosperous economy to support them.

The people who were elected in 1985, when the government changed, came in and said, "We care more," and they pumped more money into all these programs, social assistance and non-profit housing. Since the NDP came in they did the same thing: They poured money into these programs. Guess what happened? The waiting lists now for social assistance are longer than they have ever been in the history of this province. The waiting lists for non-profit housing are longer than they have ever been.

Surely to goodness, what we need to do is to judge the programs not by the amount of money we pump into it because we say we're more compassionate, but by how we reduce the number of people on social assistance or reduce the need for some of the non-profit housing. Our growth in spending has been higher than any other province over the last five years—10.6%—most of which isn't the fault of this government, but the previous Liberal government. In spite of the fact that we spent more than Alberta, Saskatchewan and every other province, our services in this province are deteriorating.

We've got waiting lists for hospitals that are longer than they have ever been. Cuts are being made on an ad hoc basis out of fiscal necessity, as we saw by that portion of the budget estimates tabled yesterday, instead of with a long-term, comprehensive plan. The fiscal problems we are facing are a direct result of the tax, spend and borrow approach of both the Liberal and the NDP governments. We are, in no small part, in the dire financial straits we are because of the growth of spending programs during those good years, when we spent faster and more than any other province in Canada, and in spite of that, most of the services we have today, most people would say, are deteriorating. There are waiting lists now for all those programs in spite of the fact the money has been spent, overspent and borrowed.

I believe one of the big things we can do is to stop driving the private sector out of housing, like we did with the crazy rent bill this government introduced. In 1985, 80% of the rental units used to be built by the private sector. Today, less than 20% are.

It's the same with day care. Their policy drove the private day care operators out: \$175 million pumped into non-profit day care centres, when the private sector in housing, education, day care, does the job faster, better, cheaper and at no expense to the taxpayer. They are being thwarted, penalized and shut out because it doesn't fit in with today's trendy political ideology of this government. That's why we are in the fiscal shape we're in now.

It wasn't like auto insurance where they came out and said, "We're going to nationalize it," and everybody got up and said, "No, don't do that." With day care and housing it was sneaky. It was sneaky because they didn't say, "We're going to nationalize all the housing being built in the rental units in Ontario." They did it because they regulated them to death, and that's why we're in this fiscal situation.

1010

The chap from Peel who appeared before the standing committee on finance and economic affairs wanted 800 new units of non-profit housing, because there's a waiting list of 7,200. He admits that even if he gets those 800, next year alone the waiting list will get longer.

We see how the Liberals attempted to deal with their famous Ataritari program, where basically we have taken a billion dollars and we may as well have put it outside on the front lawn and burned it, because that billion dollars was completely and absolutely wasted. Of all these programs, not one more unit has been created, even though that money was wasted on programs that supposedly were going to create 7,000 new non-profit units; not one was created. So I talk a bit about that in the resolution.

We've talked about some of the tough choices in introducing legislation to cap and roll back the wage increases that have been negotiated. The people of this province have to realize that their property taxes will go up next year as a direct result of this government.

They said 1%, 2% next year and 2% the following year, and the Liberals said: "Well, you should've spent more. You should've given more to municipalities, more to the universities, more to school boards, more to hospitals."

We said no. We were consistent. We realized we've got a financial crisis.

If you're going to give them 1% this year, 2% next year and 2% the following year, you should have the political courage to tie the wages—which in school boards, for example, for teachers is 80% of the cost—to the same transfer payments you got from the province. We've got the Minister of Education, who stands up and says: "You can't cut programs. You can't lay off teachers and we've only given you 1% this year," and then he wonders why property taxes will go up dramatically.

The irony of this whole thing is that the Premier criticizes the federal government for transfer payments when he has been one of the worst—what were the words he used?—"absconding debtors." He did that to his transfer partners: the municipalities, universities, school boards and hospitals. Yet he didn't have the political courage to come in with a wage cap and rollback where the negotiations have been made. In the city of Toronto, where they were asking 4.9%, you got 2%. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to realize that property taxes will go up as a direct result of this government.

We're saying that if you've got fiscal problems, you should come in with legislation to be able to cap and roll back. The problem is that when school boards negotiate, they will go to the arbitrators and the arbitrators will get big increases. So we talk about that.

We talk about the abandoning of the proposed changes—and I'll close because we're winding up here—to the Ontario labour laws. That will be the single biggest factor in Ontario's history in driving out business: \$20 billion and up to 400,000 jobs will be lost if this is brought in. If you look at it, you'll see that this government is driven by ideological—all we did in September 1990 was to replace one high-taxing, big-spending government beholden to special interest groups with another high-taxing, big-spending government beholden to special interest groups.

I hope the resolution will be passed today and that we can get on the road to prosperity that we had under the Progressive Conservative Party for 42 years.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Oakville South will have two minutes to sum up at the end of the debate. Each recognized party will have 15 minutes to participate in this debate, going in a clockwise fashion.

Ms Murdock: I'm very happy to be speaking this morning to the member for Oakville South's resolution, first, to clarify some of the misconceptions that have been stated. I'm only going to address one or two of the six issues that have been mentioned as suggestions to bring back prosperity because I want to allow my colleagues on this side to address some of the others.

It's all well and good to suggest making expenditures, but the reality is that if you do that to a great degree, as suggested by the opposition, what exactly do we cut? We have discovered in the past year that we have already had to cut programs which we as social democrats feel are needed in this province; we've had to make reductions in those areas with the hope the economy will improve in the

very near future. The problem we have, that any government, frankly, would have in this economic time, is to figure out what exactly has to be cut. If I understood what the member for Oakville South was saying, basically we would end up with no housing and no social assistance programs in order not to have any tax increases.

When you think about the situation of a \$1.5-billion increase to social assistance recipients alone, the problem is not so much the increase in taxes, which we did in a very minimal fashion in the last budget, but the reality that unemployment insurance recipients who have fewer weeks of coverage are now having to fall back on the provincial safety net. We as a province then have the responsibility of picking that up.

It is interesting that the member for Oakville South talks about transfer payments. He keeps referring to the word "cut," the fact that these transfer payments have been reduced and that we've cut transfer payments. The reality is that we haven't cut transfer payments; they have actually increased by 1%. I'll agree it is true that the 1% is a low percentage, but the reality is that they are sitting with an increase of 1%, 2% and 2%.

The problem with restructuring of the provincial welfare system—I use the exact wording of the resolution today, "welfare system"; I personally prefer the whole social assistance aspect. I don't know where the opposition has been, because we've been talking about this for months in terms of the review programs already under way in every single ministry in which we have programs.

I use an example that is already under way, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, which will be affecting social assistance programs and retraining programs. There are 48 different training programs presented in this province, supplied and delivered by 10 different ministries. The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is going to put that all together. Instead of having 10 ministries delivering similar kinds of programs to similar client groups, we're going to have one training and adjustment board that's going to deliver those same kinds of programs.

Through the social assistance program, they will be able to cut into OTAB and utilize those training programs which are there for the very people who need them. We have to look at the assessments of the people on social assistance, make a decision as to what kind of training they really need, what will be most beneficial to them, and then provide the training to see to it that they do get jobs in the future.

We can't do everything at once. The reality is that as much as we would like to be able to change this world overnight, we can't. We have to take it one step at a time, and the first step is OTAB.

The main point I want to make today is the Ontario Labour Relations Act changes, the reform to the labour review. It was with interest that I looked at the words the member for Oakville South used: "helping to fuel the exodus of business and investment from Ontario." It is business's own rhetoric and hysteria that are fueling any exodus that is occurring. Businesses were closing and moving from this province long before labour reform was even mentioned last April. The successful companies are

those that work with business, labour and government to form different kinds of working relationships.

This is going to allow working people to choose to join a union if they wish. Who are those people but predominantly women, immigrant workers and part-time workers? Right now 70% are allowed to organize if they wish, yet only 32% of them do. That is not what is fueling businesses to leave.

What is fueling businesses to leave is an American company like Hill and Knowlton. It is the fodder from their cannon that is causing businesses to move. It is not the government of Ontario that has taken out full-page ads in the New York Times and every paper across this country.

We're being asked to abandon our proposed reforms. I'll tell you right now, it's not going to happen, and therefore I will not be supporting this resolution.

1020

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): In the few minutes I have, let me say I'm quite disappointed in the resolution that has been placed by Mr Carr. I don't question his motive. He is a new member of the Legislature; he is quite inexperienced. Much of the information contained in this resolution is factually incorrect, and I believe that's partly due to his inexperience. But I also suggest that an important resolution such as this, during private members' hour, could contribute to an important debate if the facts were presented in a factually correct way. I listened carefully to what he had to say during his presentation before this House, and I want to say he is not correct about a number of facts.

We know these are difficult economic times in Ontario, and I suggest that the kind of rhetoric coming from some members of the Conservative Party is not helpful in reassuring the people of this province what the facts actually are. For example, I served as a member of the government during 1985-90. Those were very, very good economic times in the province; there were some 700,000 jobs created. Not only were they strong economic times, but they were also times when we were able to see the deficit reduced very significantly and the presentation of the first balanced budget in the province in 1989-90.

I'm quite surprised to hear laughter, as it was true; in 1989-90 there was a completely balanced budget.

Mr Carr: Balanced budget: a \$30-million surplus went to a \$3-billion deficit in two months.

Mrs Caplan: The member from Oakville is shouting, but the truth is that there was for the first time in over 40 years in the province a deficit reduction of \$430 million in 1989-90. Not only was that accomplished that year, but it was the year that a fully balanced budget, including all capital expenditure, was presented in this province, and that is a fact.

For the members of the Conservative Party to suggest to the people of the province that that is not the fact engages in the kind of misleading—and I use the term appropriately in this House—debate that the public becomes confused and upset about. I think it's important, as legislators in this House, that we argue our policy differences and

that we argue our philosophical differences on the basis of the truth.

One of the things the people of this province and my constituents in the riding of Oriole are saying to me is, "We're really disappointed because in opposition Premier Bob Rae said one thing; now that he's in government, he's saying and doing the opposite." They are concerned because the rhetoric that is coming from the New Democratic Party today is very different rhetoric from what they heard during the election campaign, and people are upset and they're frustrated.

During this time of economic downturn, all of us in this House need to understand how important it is to tell the people of the province that we may differ in philosophy, we may have different values and principles—although sometimes I think our values and goals are very similar—we may differ in our approach and we may differ in our policy, but the facts are the facts, and the truth is the truth. We can argue and debate on the basis of those facts and realities.

Having said that, governing is difficult during difficult economic times. Governing is difficult during prosperous times: Having served in government, I can tell you that during prosperous economic times we could not possibly meet all of the very high expectations the public had and that were demanded by members of the opposition in this House. However, we did the very best we could at the time, given the prosperous resources of the province and the need to be fiscally responsible, and I am proud of the fact that we were extremely fiscally responsible.

One of the concerns I have about the approach of the new government is that it has reversed the trend. During the period from 1985 to 1990, government's role in spending as a percentage of the provincial domestic economy, often referred to as the gross domestic product, was actually declining. What that means is that as the total wealth of the province is reflected in the gross domestic product, the amount that government was spending of that wealth was on a decline. Even though spending in total was increasing, it was declining as a percentage of gross domestic product.

What has happened and why this is important is that the New Democratic Party has reversed that trend. As a percentage of our total wealth, as a percentage of our gross domestic product, this government is spending a larger and larger share. What that means is that there is less room for the kind of spending by consumers and business and others to create wealth. That's about wealth creation, and there's a very important difference in philosophy between the Liberal policies and the NDP policies. We Liberals believe that government can't do everything, that government cannot create the jobs, that government's role is to create a climate so that private people, individuals and businesses can have the confidence to create the jobs this province needs. That's a very big philosophical difference between the approach of the previous Liberal government and the approach of this New Democratic government.

There's also an opportunity for government, in creating that climate, to send out certain signals. Now is not the time to increase taxes. You increase taxes during time of

economic expansion, when wealth is being created and jobs are being created. That's the time for tax increases, not now. During a recession, government should not be taking money out of the economy. Now is the time to make sure we hold the line on the deficit, which was well under control from 1985 to 1990, and on a steady decline. To see huge increases is misguided.

I would say to Mr Carr that I think his motion today is simplistic and is misguided in the extreme.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I welcome this opportunity to say a few words in support of this resolution put forward by my colleague the member for Oakville South. I trust you will agree that it is rather ironic that we are debating this resolution on the same day the NDP government will be bringing down its most recent effort at a budget. It's a budget that the Premier has already said—and we already know, thanks to Mr Stockwell, the member for Etobicoke West—will contain substantial cuts, a considerable increase in the deficit and tax hikes, among many other revelations of yesterday.

This budget will come at a time that has been very difficult for the people of Ontario. Our economy is being battered by high taxation, high unemployment and low productivity. Our social structure is stretched to the limit by soaring costs for health, education and welfare. Our economic difficulties are far too pressing to allow the provincial government the luxury of playing political games. Our economic difficulties are far too real to allow the provincial government the luxury of not giving the resolution of the member for Oakville South serious consideration this morning.

In simple terms, this resolution would direct the provincial government to commit to a policy of achieving deficit reduction through expenditure controls and not through tax increases; avoid hiking taxes or introducing new taxes; cap or roll back wage increases in the public sector; provide tax relief for the retail, tourism and small business sectors by reducing the provincial sales tax and gasoline taxes; abandon proposed changes to Ontario labour law, and restructure the provincial welfare system to make better use of social assistance dollars by financing wage subsidies for employers who hire social assistance recipients.

All of these are practical solutions. All of the points contained in the resolution today are also contained in the Ontario PC document *New Directions*, which we brought out some many months ago. We were very hopeful that the government would have paid attention to that document, but I think we're going to find out again this afternoon, with the budget, that the government is not listening to the commonsense suggestions put forward by my leader, Mike Harris, the member for Nipissing, and my caucus colleagues and myself.

1030

It's a practical resolution that takes a commonsense approach to ending high taxation, high government spending and high unemployment. The provincial government's fiscal policies are having a dramatic impact on the province's ability to attract investment, create jobs and maintain those we already have. Common sense tells us

that economic opportunity, social justice and health care cannot be attained just by tossing money around.

Provincial government spending has tripled since 1981 to more than \$53 billion today. You can bet that today's budget will contain a \$12-billion deficit at least, a far cry from the \$9.7 billion figure we were promised last year, which we made very clear at that time was unacceptable to this province. Add this to the recession, the restructuring process in Simcoe county, for example, and a clear anti-business bias by this government, and there's no question why our economy is reeling, job creators are under siege, taxpaying families are being deprived of hope and opportunity and the least fortunate in our society are being exposed to untold hardship.

These views were echoed by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce in a submission to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. The chamber submitted that: "The problem isn't new to this government. The province has a legacy of expressing moral outrage at anything that remotely resembles a reduction in federal transfer payments at the same time it has been obstructionist on federal tax initiatives."

I wanted to quote that paragraph because it brings us into an area of justification often used by the Premier and the members of the NDP caucus that somehow federal transfer payments and a so-called cut in federal transfer payments are really the root of the NDP's problems today in trying to run the fiscal affairs of this province.

I want to point out, as Mr Phillips, the Liberal member, pointed out on April 28 in a question to the Premier, the fact—and the Treasurer has admitted this fact—that transfer payments from the federal government are up some 25%. They are not cut; they're up 25%. In addition to what he was expecting in the regular increases in transfer payments every year, the Treasurer will be expecting an additional \$1.5 billion this year from the federal government.

I want to quote Mr Phillips. He says: "The thing that offends people...is hypocrisy. On the one hand, the federal government says, 'We are going to give you a 25% increase in transfer payments.' On the other hand, the Premier gets up and says in a speech, 'These are tough times. We are going to give our transfer payment agencies, the hospitals, the school boards, 1%.'"

Mr Phillips went on: "If you can call the federal government an absconding debtor with those sorts of transfer payment" increases, and then he simply poses a rhetorical question that if the feds are being called an absconding debtor, then what are you, Mr Premier? I think it speaks volumes of the type of political games that have been played by the NDP over the past 18 months, and in fact it's a history in that party.

I want to continue to quote from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce submission to the legislative committee: "We have some news for you. It may have escaped the attention of most people here, but the federal government's taxpayers and the provincial government's taxpayers are largely one and the same. Hard as it may be to believe, the federal government is actually in much deeper financial trouble than the provincial government is—so far.

"This country and its economy can not afford any more cute games of political one-upmanship at the expense of the economy."

They then go on to speak specifically about the NDP government in Ontario: "This recession did not just happen, and it wasn't caused by the free trade agreement any more than the 1982 recession was caused by the free trade agreement. It was created by the Bank of Canada trying to control rising inflationary problems that were centred primarily in Ontario.

"A lot of that inflation problem arises from the provincial government." That is a quote from the chamber. They point out that that problem stems from "higher taxes; legislated cost increases; a costly and rising bureaucratic burden; expensive, high-profile public sector wage settlements; increased provincial competition for the scarce funds that are available."

Finally, the chamber says: "Ontario has become a high-risk, hostile environment. There is no comfort that business will receive fair treatment. Unless that perception changes, and changes quickly, our economic prospects are dim."

I also want to speak about the tourism industry in Ontario. I'm the former Tourism and Recreation critic for my party and I live in a part of the province that is very much dependent on tourism: the Wasaga Beach and Collingwood areas.

The Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Local 75, says, "There are no new major conventions booked in Toronto before 1995 because the city has become uncompetitive in terms of costs." I raise the Toronto example from a union in the hope that this government that is Toronto-centred and union-centred in its thinking will listen to its union partners. The union went on to say, "The cost of holding conventions in Toronto is 40% higher than elsewhere in North America."

"The Treasurer is said to be considering removing the sales tax exemption for meals under \$4"—we're expecting that in the budget this afternoon. "This will decimate the tourism industry and may cause substantial job losses in the neighbourhood of 12,000 jobs...Bankruptcies in the food services industry are at record high. Bankruptcies increased 85% in 1990 over 1989 levels," and that trend continued throughout 1991. "The restaurant industry has lost more than 50,000 jobs over the past 18 months."

To date, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation's response to the Metro Toronto convention crisis and the overall tourism malaise has been to say, "The Treasurer makes decisions on taxes." When asked outside the Legislature what he was doing to bring more conventions to Toronto and Ontario, as more conventions mean more dollars in our provincial economy, Mr North said: "I'm not the Treasurer. It's not my job to think that way." It's a pretty astonishing response from the so-called advocate and Minister of Tourism and Recreation in this province.

The NDP government's response to another major tourism problem, cross-border shopping, is to avoid a real solution: to lower taxes and to make us competitive again here in Ontario. Instead the government is betting with its collective heart that casino gambling will solve this problem. I say, not likely. I'd say the NDP has crapped out if it

expects casino gambling to solve its economic and tourism woes. The horse racing industry generates almost \$2 billion annually and employs close to 50,000 people in this province. The industry says 10,000 of those jobs would be lost with the introduction of casinos to the province.

In a letter to me from Mr William Rowe, president of Barrie Raceway Holdings Ltd, Mr Rowe writes: "In the present depressed economy, the pool of disposable entertainment dollars is very small and growing smaller daily as more individuals and small businesses go bankrupt in this province.

"There is no doubt that bringing in casino gambling will bring in some dollars to the provincial Treasury—some estimates are being quoted at \$150 million. This sounds great, but most of these dollars will not be new dollars but dollars diverted from the racing industry and the lotteries."

Mr Rowe feels the "advent of casino gambling will have a grave consequence for individuals who make their living at the Barrie Raceway. It takes no great genius to see what will happen to Barrie Raceway and 500 people who work here and the hundreds more people who derive indirect income from the racetrack throughout Simcoe county."

Other problems in the area of casino gambling: addiction. The NDP government withdrew funding for programs designed to treat gambling addicts. A New Jersey committee studying casino gambling reported that evidence indicates that availability of legalized gambling increases the risk of becoming a compulsive gambler.

How many lives will be ruined, I ask? How much will it cost our society to treat the rise in addicts that accompanies legalized gambling in Ontario?

1040

I want to make this point specifically to the tourism operators in my area of the province: Some areas could suffer a tourism decline if they are competing against other Ontario jurisdictions that have casinos and they don't. What will form the basis of which areas get casinos?

The Huronia Tourist Association has written a letter to the Premier:

"We must, in the strongest way possible, take issue with the site selections, since they totally bypass and isolate central Ontario and the region known as Huronia. Therefore, while it's nice to know that you do not want to see us at a disadvantage, the 'us' does not include us in Huronia, but rather a select few areas of the province. As a result, it would appear that the sites are strategically placed so as to entice Americans to cross the border. As desirable as that may be, did it occur to those selecting the casino locations that they were restricting this major tourist lure to Canadian border areas and completely boycotting that part of Ontario which accounts for almost 12% of all tourist destinations in Ontario? As well, why should there be two in Metro Toronto? On that basis, this association finds the proposed sites clearly discriminatory and unfair."

Finally, I want to thank the member for Oakville South for bringing this thoughtful and commonsense resolution before the Legislature today. It's sad that the other parties seem to be void of common sense. We saw that in five

years of Liberal reign and we are certainly seeing that in the last 18 months of NDP reign in Ontario.

I would urge all members of the Legislature, though, to step back from their political agendas and lend their support to this resolution. A more stable and prosperous future in Ontario begins with the passage of this resolution today. Thank you for your indulgence.

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): That was somewhat entertaining.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Talk about entertaining: How about that tie?

Mr Waters: I think it's a beautiful tie.

Anyway, I'd like to address the member for Oakville South's resolution. We'll start at the top.

As I look at the main body of his resolution, it talks about the government contributing to high taxation and high government spending and high unemployment in the province. Maybe we'll give them a quick history lesson on the whole thing.

I come from a unique area of the province. In the early 1980s we had a Premier of this province who went about my riding and promised various things. He promised sewer projects, he promised housing projects.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Wasn't he a Conservative Premier?

Mr Waters: Very much a Conservative Premier. The roads were going to be taken care of. This all happened back in the early 1980s, and nothing ever came of it.

Then we had a Liberal government come in, and the same promises went around, and once again literally nothing came of it.

Now it's at a point in my riding where we have absolutely no alternative: We have a series of sewer plants we desperately need, we have roads that have to be repaired—we have roads that have needed repairs since the 1950s. We have housing projects that—I find it quite interesting that it's fallen upon our government to fulfil the projects the past Premier announced back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and I find it interesting to be able to travel around with him and do the sod-turnings and the openings of these projects.

Here we are in the toughest economic time this country has seen since the 1930s, and it falls upon us to go around and clean up the neglected mess that was left there before us. Even though times are tough, we are able to do some of it and put a start in on this. I see housing projects around the province; I see sewer projects around the province; I see road projects. This infrastructure is needed by the people, by the private sector, I might say, to be competitive. They need this infrastructure, and the members across should recognize that unless we have this infrastructure, these towns can't grow. Yes, we might be spending a bit more than what they would like to see us spend, but we have to build that infrastructure and indeed we are spending on infrastructure.

Then I would go on. One of the key arguments that has been going on in this House for months has been labour reforms. The members across would have you believe that if you have a husband-and-wife industry, the wife is going

to go out and organize against her husband. Nothing could be farther from the truth and they know it. They're out there creating scare tactics to try to force us to back down on legislation that is desperately needed in this province. The fact that we are dropping from 55% to 50% for the right to organize is nothing to be afraid of. They would have you believe it's the end of the world.

I think at this point I'm going to save some time for some of my fellow colleagues to make some comments, so I will at this point take my seat.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Further debate?

Mr Bradley: It's a pleasure to be able to participate in this activity this morning. The member for Oakville South has presented a resolution for consideration of the Legislature. Unfortunately it's fitting in with the new Progressive Conservative strategy. I don't know who is concocting this strategy. Hugh Segal is advising or someone is advising. But if you look at the resolutions that are brought forward by the Conservative caucus at this time, you will see that they are designed not to attract the support of any of the other political parties in the Legislature.

This is so they can go out to various places across the province and wave a particular resolution, and that resolution will be one which sounds attractive but they won't show what the preamble was in the resolution. They'll put a hook in criticizing one or both of the other parties. In this case, I noticed the last few resolutions have references to the previous government. They're still fighting the last provincial election. If they wanted to be truly effective, they would in fact put forward a resolution that might attract the support of even some members of the New Democratic Party who in conscience would be prepared to vote for it.

You may think this is a good trick. Back in the old days when the Big Blue Machine was around Ontario and you had Norm Atkins and Hugh Segal and that crew concocting these resolutions, it may have been pretty politically smart. Today I think people see through that strategy. What they're looking for is straightforward resolutions.

There are some components of this resolution which are certainly worthy of support and some which are not. I want to deal with a couple of these, first of all the suggestion that no new taxes be brought in at this time in this particular budget. I think that's a reasonable proposition for the following reasons.

First, I think we should be leaving as much money as possible in the hands of the consumers at a difficult economic time so they can make the purchases they feel are necessary and essential. This will keep the economy going. The Treasurer will see that his revenues will continue to increase as in fact the economic activity across the province continues to increase.

Second, there is the problem of cross-border shopping. It used to be said that you could put a tax on gasoline because some people saw that as being a negative consumption, or you could put a tax on alcohol or on tobacco and most people would live with that. Indeed there was a time when that could be done, and various governments across this country have done so.

1050

The difference today, if the government were to include those taxes, is that it would continue to drive people to make purchases across the border, making those purchases because they felt the tax increases were making it an economic necessity. Those are attractive taxes. I know that from time to time they are attractive taxes, but in this particular case those are the loss leaders which send consumers to the United States in great numbers to make purchases. So I hope at this time the government would avoid increasing those kinds of taxes as well.

The third issue I wish to deal with is that of casino gambling. I know I saw Mel Swart, for instance, in the precincts of the Parliament yesterday and I can imagine the viewpoint of Mel Swart, though I can't speak for him, on the issue of casino gambling. I recall seeing Fred Young here, former member for Yorkview, the individual who had a hand in writing the prayer that commences the session each day. I can't believe that people of the ilk of Mel Swart and Fred Young would look favourably upon casino gambling as the solution to the problems of Ontario.

There will be those who will say: "Well, isn't it attractive to have it in your own community? Wouldn't it raise a lot of money?" Of course, there's always that attractiveness. What people have to understand, however, is that the day you put a casino in one border town you will find out that the American jurisdiction will have it in another town right across the border. Any advantage you have gained will be diminished by the fact that there is a casino or a major gambling event in another location immediately across a border.

Second, of course, is that we're having a great problem in the Niagara Peninsula with the Fort Erie Race Track. We've already lost Garden City Raceway, just outside of St Catharines, and now very much threatened by economic circumstances is Fort Erie Race Track. The mayor of Fort Erie and others in the Fort Erie area in particular have expressed great concern about the impact of casino gambling on their particular sport and their particular facility, and I think that must be taken into account.

Third, members will know that three members have now dealt with issues related to people being able to raise funds for themselves. I had the opportunity to raise the issue of junior hockey teams, soccer teams, fastball teams and you name the sport, having individual bingos they would use to raise funds so that they could operate within their communities. In the Niagara Peninsula we have several Junior B hockey teams, and some Junior C and Junior D hockey teams around Ontario.

We're going to see two results: first, casino gambling will take money from other sources of raising revenues; but second, and more important as far as the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is concerned, they must understand these are important activities within a community. It seems to me that the provincial government, while it has to always look at all of its policies and I appreciate that, should not be threatening to withdraw bingo licences simply because of the age of the players in one case or the so-called narrowness of the focus in another case.

I hope the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations will give very serious consideration to the representations which have been made by members of various parties. I've raised the issue with her personally in the House. I've previously made a statement in the House about this. I hope they will not remove from those people the opportunity to raise their own funds so that the government of Ontario can then come by and say, "Here is a grant directly from us." Those people want to raise their own funds, and I think it's important that they be allowed to do so.

There are many aspects of this resolution which are quite attractive. Obviously it was written so members of the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party cannot support it, and that's most unfortunate. I wish members would bring forward resolutions which would attract consensus support in this House. That often happens in this hour, and I believe it's what this hour is all about.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Further debate?

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): Good morning, Mr Speaker. You wouldn't believe how lucky I feel to be allowed to spend all of four minutes and 29 seconds speaking to this. It's not a whole lot of time that I get to stand up and talk here, but I'm happy to be able to do it on this occasion. I just left the whip's office, where the bells have been momentarily silenced, and it remains that I anxiously and eagerly await my passport and my ticket for whatever destination the whip may see it appropriate to send her favourite puppy to.

It's interesting, this kind of debate about this kind of issue. It's interesting that people listening ought to know exactly who it is talking about their concerns right now and really what kind of income brackets they're in. Let's talk for a minute about what MPPs make by way of income here in the province of Ontario. It's a little bit confusing, because you've got to add all the things up and factor in some impact of tax-free income.

Mr Carr: You guys got an increase.

Mr Kormos: The base income—and I'm reading from April 1990. There was a clever little stunt played here where there was a so-called freeze on salaries, but that was after there was a retroactive increase. That's a very clever sort of thing. I've got workers down in Welland and Thorold who wish they could pull off the same sort of thing. Every MPP makes, first of all, \$44,675, but it doesn't end there. Every one of these 130 people then make an additional \$15,000 tax-free.

Ms Murdock: It's \$14,000.

Mr Kormos: It's \$14,984, which is close enough to \$15,000 for me to call it \$15,000 tax-free. Now \$15,000 tax-free is just about maybe \$20,000 or \$22,000 taxable, so you add \$22,000 on to the \$44,000 and you're up to \$66,000, and there isn't a single member of the government caucus—we inherited this trait or we acquired it none the less from our Liberal predecessors—who doesn't make a little bit more on the side, anywhere from around \$5,000 up to around \$12,000 up to around \$30,000 if you're a cabinet minister. Plus every single member of this Legislature picks up \$2,000 or \$3,000 tax-free every year just for

doing the job. It's called the per diem for sitting on committees.

Then of course there's the 29 cents or 29.5 cents, depending on what part of the province you live in, for every kilometre—not mile; metric did it again—that you travel in your car. Hopefully it's a made-in-North-America car, but there are more than a few Nissans, Volvos and Lexuses out there in the parking lot. Some of them have got MPP plates on them. I find that the height of arrogance.

The bottom line is this: These people in this assembly make more money, each and every one of them, than most working people in this province will even ever dare dream of. I find it incredible that this resolution could talk, for instance, about the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments when those people working in sweatshops, those people working in non-unionized workplaces, as often as not women, as often as not immigrants, will never dare dream of the incomes that MPPs enjoy.

I find it incredible that these people could somehow purport in this resolution, Mr Carr—and I appreciate that there are some valid points here. There's some quality in this resolution; unfortunately not enough. It unfortunately ignores the reality of hardworking women and men and unfortunately non-working women and men who would like to have jobs, had they not been stolen from them by Brian Mulroney in free trade and GST.

I find it the height of arrogance for people making \$70,000 or \$75,000 a year and having a trough available to them, be it gold-plated identification pins or be it little trips that the whip may wish to dispense at her pleasure, depending upon for whom the bell tolls—I find it incredible that this resolution coming from the Conservative Party would attempt to say what it does when these people are so removed from reality, so wedded to Brian Mulroney and a regressive, reactionary policy, a sellout of workers. They should be ashamed.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Oakville South has two minutes for concluding remarks.

1100

Mr Carr: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and welcome. I understand this is your first time in the Chair and we welcome you as the new Speaker.

I am pleased to add a little bit to the debate. It was interesting. I'm one of the 28 who doesn't get any extra money. I believe 102 out of the 130 get extra money. I'm one of the 28 who does not. It's interesting we hear from the member for Welland-Thorold who talks about perks and—

Interjections.

Mr Carr: I don't drive a Corvette. I didn't ever in my life have a Porsche like the member did.

Mr Kormos: You've got a Lexus out there.

The Acting Speaker: Would the member sit down, please. I would ask the honourable member for Welland-Thorold please to restrain himself and allow the member for Oakville South to continue with his concluding remarks.

Mr Kormos: I apologize, Mr Speaker. I sincerely apologize to you.

Mr Carr: My time, my time.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I thank the member very much. Please take your seat. I ask the member for Welland-Thorold to take his seat.

Mr Carr: Mr Speaker, would there be any chance of getting back the 20 seconds we lost?

Mr Kormos: No, you can't play those games.

Mr Carr: Okay, I'll have to wrap up very quickly. All I'm saying is that for a member who drives a Corvette and had a Porsche to stand up—unfortunately I'm not in those circumstances, but for him to stand up and talk about perks when he goes out of here in his Corvette—I will leave that for the public to decide.

Some of the other speakers talked about who I'm talking about. I'm not in this House to impress anybody. I was elected by the people of Oakville-South. These are the polls I got back—and I've got to be really quick because I lost some of the time—80% of the people said, "You shouldn't have any tax increases." Liberals, NDP, Conservatives, everybody in the riding said—80% of them—"No new taxes, no government spending."

That's who I'm standing up for. I'm not in this House to please anybody—Corvette drivers or Porsche drivers. It's the people of Oakville South I'm standing up for here today and I hope you'll support me.

The Acting Speaker: The time has expired for ballot item 3.

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT

LE CODE DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

Mr Winner moved second reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Human Rights Code / Loi modifiant le Code des droits de la personne.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): The member has 10 minutes.

Mr David Winner (London South): Mr Speaker, I ask you to imagine if Einstein had been refused work at Princeton University when he was in his 70s. I ask you to imagine if Jessica Tandy had been denied her Oscar-winning performance at the age of 80 or if Picasso had been told to stop painting or Rubinstein told to stop playing the piano to allow younger people access to such work.

These are questions Reginald Stackhouse, a member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, raised in 1990. Does Ontario have a place for age discrimination? Are people who reach the age of 65 to be treated like so many barrels of oil or lumps of coal?

Many people feel that mandatory retirement fails to consider ability and denies the opportunity for the benefits, the dignity and the self-satisfaction ongoing employment can provide. A study last fall by Statistics Canada showed that only one third of adult Canadians favour retaining a mandatory retirement age and that most people interviewed wanted greater choice and flexibility regarding retirement than company or government policies provide.

Provincial legislation, as you know, applies to the provincially regulated private sector as well as the provincial public sector. Exceptions to provincial legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age exist within the

Human Rights Code of Ontario. Ontario has an exception in subsection 10(1), defining age to mean over the age of 18 and less than the age of 65. Another exception provides for situations in which age is a reasonable or bona fide qualification or factor for the job. I have some concerns about other exceptions regarding employment, but those can await another day. I note in passing that if an age of 65 or over is a requirement, qualification or consideration for preferential treatment, a right to non-discrimination is not infringed.

The recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, *McKinney v the University of Guelph*, a decision involving seven justices—five male justices and two female justices—is binding on the courts of Canada. The decision ruled that universities are not bound by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms because of their private component as they function in society. But even if the charter had extended to universities, the majority of the court would have found that compulsory retirement is a reasonable limit on protection from age discrimination.

Even though the court found that our subsection 10(1) did violate the right to protection from discrimination and that under section 1 that limit on protection from discrimination was reasonable and constitutionally valid, the two female justices, who spoke in dissent, would have struck down the mandatory retirement provisions. They wrote that discrimination based on age "has the effect of reinforcing the stereotype that older workers are no longer useful members of the labour force. Their services may therefore be freely and arbitrarily dispensed with." In fact these justices, who wrote a strong dissent, echoed the 1985 report of the federal parliamentary committee on equality rights. I believe you, Mr Speaker, participated in the preparation thereof. The third female justice on the Supreme Court of Canada could not participate in this decision because she, sitting in the Court of Appeal of British Columbia, had previously struck down a mandatory retirement decision there. It's interesting to note that Supreme Court of Canada judges enjoy tenure on the bench until the age of 75.

Mandatory retirement clearly disadvantages capable people who are forced to retire solely because of age, particularly women, new Canadians and others who begin careers late or in midlife and are unable to build up adequate pensions. Further, there are many people for whom employment is a source of physical, mental and social health. To deprive individuals of the opportunity to work may contribute to a wasting away following retirement.

At one time many employees were forced to work long after they had become decrepit, often employed for long hours and in squalid working conditions we would consider intolerable today. A mandatory retirement age was designed to ensure that those employees who required a dignified retirement with the security of pension benefits would not be denied a comfortable and dignified retirement. The confusion, however, between normal retirement age and mandatory retirement age has been well documented.

After the Second World War, pension plans proliferated in the United States and Canada, generally using 65 as the entitlement age. The 1979 Canadian senate committee on retirement age policies concluded "that mandatory retirement

based on age involves an infringement of human rights, economic waste and misconceptions about the relevance of age." The report of the Task Force on Mandatory Retirement observed in 1987 that: "The appropriateness of mandatory or compulsory retirement is being widely questioned. Some see it as a form of age discrimination that offends the rights of the individual."

1110

Six other provinces—PEI, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta, as well as the two territories—have taken the necessary steps to amend their human rights legislation to remove exceptions for those over 65. Quebec, for example, notwithstanding its abolished mandatory retirement, can regulate and has regulated exceptions for firefighters and police officers. The case law in Ontario has upheld such exceptions.

The time has come for Ontario to take a bold step in this regard. Why? The C. D. Howe Institute declared recently that later retirement should be the way of the future. We must adapt our social policies and workplaces to meet the challenge from large-scale population changes.

People over 65 will increase by 60% by the year 2000 and by 200% in the next half-century. Some 1.6% of the working population is over 65. In 1990 the average income of those over 65 was only \$17,640, compared to \$24,294 for those aged 15 to 64. So you can see and appreciate clearly, Mr Speaker, that people forced to retire after the age of 65 are facing a concomitant decline in their income.

Certainly it makes good economic sense, as the baby boom generation retires and the workload falls to a number of younger workers due to the decline in the fertility rate, that there may be labour shortages. In fact, as the baby boom came of age, labour force growth exceeded 3% a year. Now the labour bust generation has come down the pipe, and labour force entry is down to 1.8% a year, a decline in participation, particularly among men.

While there is some evidence of loss of memory and cognitive ability with age, it depends on the demographics and on personal characteristics. Some maintain all their competence well into their 80s. So I would ask you, Mr Speaker, to be aware of the changing demographics in Ontario and to understand and appreciate the need for a re-evaluation of Ontario's policies on mandatory retirement.

I'll have more to say in conclusion.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I'm pleased to rise in today's debate. I want to compliment the member who raised this issue for a very thoughtful discussion which we've heard from him in the last few minutes.

I want to quote from a research paper on this subject. The concluding, bottom line says, "Historically, all advances in human rights have been opposed by those with vested interests, who inevitably have predicted all manner of resulting evil and destruction." The writer says, "My own view is that the benefits of eliminating 'ageism' from our employment systems far outweigh the costs."

This article was written by Michael Krashinsky, who is an economist with the department of economics at the University of Toronto. I would commend this paper to

anyone in this House or anyone who is interested in the issue of mandatory retirement, because it does deal with many of those things which would have to change if we were to eliminate mandatory retirement and look at normal retirement.

Things that would have to change would be tenure, collective agreements, bargaining, pension plan design and reform, and performance appraisal. Anyone who thinks we could just amend the Human Rights Code and eliminate mandatory retirement without having ripple effects through the economy, ripple effects through changing some of the institutions and infrastructures that have been in place in our society, is simply wrong. We know that there would be many changes. The question is, would those changes be better for us or worse for us as a society?

Philosophically, I am very supportive of the elimination of mandatory retirement. I do believe, as our society is aging in Ontario, that we cannot afford to have unproductive human resources. I also believe we have the opportunity now to do the planning, make the kind of anticipated changes, whether it is in our universities, which would be tremendously impacted by a change in mandatory retirement because that is where tenure is most prevalent; whether it would be in our labour laws, which would encourage the kind of renegotiating that would have to happen around collective agreements that have mandated mandatory retirement as part of the collective agreement; whether it would be in pension plan design to ensure proper incentives, better pension plans, more widespread, when you take a look at the number of people in our society today who have no private sector pensions, who rely only on the Canada pension plan for their retirement and find that this is inadequate.

Women are particularly impacted by the provisions of mandatory retirement. Many of them have left the workforce to raise their families or, because of marriage breakdown, have entered the workforce late in life and do not have adequate pension benefits and credits and find that when they reach the age of 65 they are living in poverty. They need to have greater opportunities to work.

In fact, once we're through this recession—and we know we will come through this recession—we have to create the kind of society that will encourage people to be as productive as possible, if they choose, for as long as possible.

I believe the concepts of lifelong learning and career change will be with us. When we talk about a change in mandatory retirement, that does not mean that people will be able to stay in work and be unproductive. That's the issue of performance appraisal, and it's one of the concerns I have, because some of those who argue against mandatory retirement suggest that employers would be less likely to maintain their workforce and would institute practices which may result in job loss for those workers who are not seen to be as productive as they should be.

I argue that while that is a concern and should be discussed, I believe workers should have the opportunity to prove they are able and capable of doing the job that is required, but that would be a significant change and something that should be considered.

The predictions for the future for the young are that they will change their careers many times. Our society is changing generally. When it comes to the development of social policies which will be forward-looking and take us confidently into the next century, which is really on the horizon, I believe we must look at issues such as mandatory retirement with a view to how this will have a positive impact on our society and how it will have a negative impact. Let's have a proper discussion and debate.

I would encourage the member, as a member of the government, to suggest that we not simply discuss this in private members' hour, but perhaps have a white paper of government policy. I think that would be very helpful, a chance to discuss what would have to change. We know it's highly unlikely that a private member's bill of this magnitude would be proclaimed by the government without significant discussion. I don't want to deceive anyone today to suggest that this is likely going to become government policy without it being a government bill.

I think it's important that members know the difference between a private member's bill and a government bill. I'd like the opportunity, as a legislator, as a member of this Parliament, to have before us a government document, a piece of government legislation that could be thoroughly discussed and debated at committee. I would like to hear from the economists who would argue in support of mandatory retirement. I'd like to know from all those who argue for the status quo what they believe it would mean.

I believe mandatory retirement ultimately is a good thing not to have in the future. I believe mandatory retirement is an outdated, outmoded, unnecessary, discriminatory provision. It's my hope that we will have the opportunity to raise the public consciousness to see what this would mean in Ontario; to give people the right to work if they choose and to have that freedom, free of discrimination. I thank the member for bringing that forward and I support his resolution, even though I do not expect it will become law in the province unless it is supported as a government piece of legislation.

1120

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): It really is a pleasure to speak this morning in favour of Bill 15, put forward by the member for London South. I must say at the beginning, though, that I really speak for myself as a member of the Ontario PC caucus. We did not have the opportunity to come to a consensus on this issue in caucus; anyway, it certainly is the practice of my party that members speak on legislation for themselves. I simply make that clear this morning.

Interjection.

Mr Jim Wilson: The member for Durham East doesn't me want to get started because I am supportive of the bill. Did you hear that? It's a historic moment. I know I'm agreeing with the NDP and it's budget day and all that jazz, but I'm kind of hoping to put the NDP in good humour before the budget comes down at 4 o'clock because I think they're going to have a bad evening.

None the less, I think the member for London South is correct in wanting to amend the Ontario Human Rights

Code to allow people, in effect, to work beyond age 65. I'm supportive of this, I should also say, because in other jurisdictions—and I will talk about some of the experience of the other jurisdictions, as the member has, including the federal civil service that no longer has a requirement for mandatory retirement—less than 1% of the workforce has actually been affected. So I think when people are opposed to banning mandatory retirement, they do so really on philosophical grounds and not in actual fact and by experience, because the experience has been generally positive. I will go into that.

I note, as the member for London South has, that in December 1990 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that it was constitutional for provinces to allow mandatory retirement policies. This put the government of Ontario in the position of allowing mandatory retirement at age 65 to remain or amending the Human Rights Code, as the private member's bill does this morning. I point out that in making its decision, the court said that while mandatory retirement did constitute age discrimination under section 15 of the charter, it could be considered justifiable in a free and democratic society and therefore was constitutional under section 1 of the charter.

Currently, half of Ontario's workforce of 2.5 million employees is subject to mandatory retirement provisions. At the time of the Supreme Court decision, again in December 1990, the Ontario PC Party Citizenship critic, the member for Markham, Mr Don Cousens, was quoted in the Toronto Star as saying, "It's a good idea to change the code"—the Human Rights Code—"so people over 65 can work if they want to." I note that the Liberal critic at the time also agreed with Mr Cousens's remarks.

The impetus to abolish mandatory retirement in this province receives a boost from current demographics. Ontario's workforce is aging, our workforce is shrinking and people are living longer lives. I note that Ontario's Task Force on Mandatory Retirement recommended in its 1987 report that mandatory retirement be abolished except where it can be established as a bona fide occupational requirement, and that membership of a pension or retirement plan, even under a collective agreement, not be grounds for exemption. Mandatory retirement is disproportionately present in the unionized workforce. I point that out not in a partisan manner, but simply because there is work to be done in terms of collective bargaining agreements and pensions. The member for Oriole very correctly pointed that out just a few minutes ago. A 1979 study of major Ontario collective agreements found that 83% of such employees were subject to some form of mandatory retirement.

These are some of the arguments opposing mandatory retirement, and I'm going to do this under headings, the first heading being flexibility.

The chairman of the Task Force on Mandatory Retirement, Dr Ron Ianni, argued that its removal would precipitate a number of innovative and imaginative policies facilitating early retirement, voluntary reductions in work responsibilities for seniors, improved pension plans and a more flexible approach to the whole question of retirement.

I argue that this flexibility would enable skilled workers to continue working in their field of expertise past the age of 65. When I think of my own riding of Simcoe West, a very significant portion of that riding—because we have a lot of retirees who chose to retire to the country from Toronto—are working past age 65, particularly in businesses in their own homes. I am surprised, as I visit a number of subdivisions, at how many older couples—older in terms of over age 65—are running consulting businesses, working with computers at home or doing crafts, a number of things, businesses on the side, really because they need the money and, second, they are living longer.

The quality of life is very high in this province and in this country. They're perfectly capable of doing many of the things they did when they were younger, and I don't see why we should have a law to prohibit people from doing what they do best.

Under the heading of planning: Opponents of mandatory retirement argue, first, that it is paternalistic to assume that career planning needs to be imposed upon older workers; second, it's overkill to uniformly retire all senior workers because some may experience a personally difficult dismissal; and third, it's of questionable justice to require workers to retire just because of some sort of administrative convenience.

Under the heading of increased monitoring: As the number of employees likely to stay on is minimal—as I say, studies indicate that it probably would only affect about 1% of the workforce; ie, only about 1% of the workforce would choose to work beyond age 65 or the mandatory retirement age—employers have little incentive to alter their personnel practices.

Under the category of deferred wage compensation: The argument that deferred wage compensation is a major incentive for workers to remain at work, as well as being a significant cost to employers, is weakened by the current trend to early retirement.

Again, estimates released in the study by the Task Force on Mandatory Retirement indicated that between 5,000 to 10,000 persons a year would consider working beyond age 65 if mandatory retirement was to be removed. As I've said, this would mean an increase of about 25,000 to 50,000 workers, or less than 1% of the Ontario workforce.

As the member for London South has correctly noted, the provinces of Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba and New Brunswick have abolished mandatory retirement and the federal government abolished it in 1986. I wanted to take a moment just to recap the experience in each of those jurisdictions.

Manitoba in 1982 introduced an amendment to its human rights code. A study commissioned by the Ontario task force again found that the elimination of mandatory retirement appears to have had little effect on workers or working conditions in Manitoba. When the Ontario task force looked at the experience in Manitoba, there seemed to be very little effect.

The same study also found that of employees affected by the elimination of mandatory retirement, almost none chose to stay on in heavy industry, while two thirds of

eligible university faculty chose to stay. Overall, though, the study found that those who chose to stay on were most often pension-poor older women, an interesting and important fact.

I think of that in my own mother's case. She had six children, was a school teacher and took 13 years out of her teaching career to have the six children. We very affectionately say, "Mom, you're going to have to work until you drop," because they certainly need the money. I don't come from a wealthy family by any stretch of the imagination. I may add, she's one of these teachers that went to normal school, did not have the opportunity over the years to get her BA because she was raising a family, and subsequently makes significantly less money than many teachers after their first one or two years—

1130

Mrs Caplan: Just don't say how old she is or you're in big trouble.

Mr Jim Wilson: The member for Oriole reminds me not to say how old my mother is. That's very kind of you because you know I'm going into one of my side speeches here. None the less, it's important that she be able to work as long as she can and wants to, and she very much enjoys her job. She is a special education teacher.

New Brunswick also brought in amendments, I believe, in 1973. When our task force in Ontario looked at that, it again found that less than 1% of people 65 years old were staying on in employment. In that legislation in New Brunswick the exemption for pension coverage is broad, which accounts for the minimal impact in New Brunswick of mandatory retirement elimination.

In Quebec, by means of provincial legislation in 1981, mandatory retirement was abolished. Again the Ontario task force found little impact on the workforce or employers. It is interesting to note that the exemption was universities where the study found that 10-year professors were becoming "complacent and entrenched"—that's from the Ontario task force study—and that the impact this was having on the prospects of new graduates wishing to enter the teaching world was creating "a pressing problem."

Of the last two jurisdictions I want to look at, the Canadian federal government, of course, as I mentioned, abolished mandatory retirement for the federal civil service in 1986. The Ontario study indicated that not enough time had really elapsed to come to any significant conclusions of what the effect was at the federal level.

In the United States, 1978 amendments to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act raised the retirement age for federal government employees from 65 to 70. Amendments to the same act in 1986 resulted in the elimination of mandatory retirement for federal government employees in the United States. Our Ontario task force uses the words, "Overall, the removal of mandatory retirement in the United States was a non-event." It really says quite a bit there.

I want to end by saying that we support it. I echo the thoughts brought forward by the member for Oriole when she said people really shouldn't get their hopes up. This is a private member's bill that's being debated this morning

on second reading. I note that the Minister of Citizenship, Elaine Ziemba, at the time of the decision in December 1990, wasn't clear what the government's intention would be.

I would be interested to hear in the member for London South's two-minute windup if he is working with the unionized sector. In a lot of the reading I did in preparing for today I found that not only are 83% of unionized workers now forced to retire at age 65 or earlier because of their pension plans and a number of other issues that have been mentioned, but many of them want to. The Canadian Labour Congress, in its response to the Supreme Court's decision in December 1990, supported the Supreme Court.

I think there's some work to be done in both a public way and behind the scenes with some of the labour leaders in the country to see really where they stand. I would not want to see the government move ahead without really giving us a clear indication. When you read the Ontario task force report, it studies other jurisdictions and gives us an overall feeling that abolishing mandatory retirement is okay. It's not going to have any great effects, but there will be and could be individual cases of hardship resulting from pension plans that may not work as well for people.

We want to make sure the government does its homework thoroughly on this before proceeding to third reading with this bill, if that ever occurs. The record around here, of course, is that private members' bills don't go very far. None the less, I commend the member for London South for bringing forward this thoughtful piece of legislation today.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): It is indeed a pleasure for me to rise in my place this morning and speak in support of second reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Human Rights Code, introduced by my colleague the member for London South. I didn't think the day would dawn when I would stand in this House and agree with the member for Oriole or the member for Simcoe West, but it's happened and it's very unique.

Also, my experience this morning is somewhat unique in that I was the victim of mandatory retirement at the age of 50, when I was forced to leave the military. I must say at that time I was able to run 10 miles a day and was doing that. I thought I was at the height of my powers of knowledge of policing, yet on my 50th birthday, I was told I was no longer useful. That was a traumatic experience. Many of my colleagues have gone down hill steadily, because it is very difficult to find a job anywhere in Canada today in that 50 age group. That is discrimination. People say, "Well, you got a pension." Yes, I got a pension all right, but it wouldn't pay the rent on a normal apartment.

Then I retired again. I went to another job and was encouraged to leave early under some sort of plan. I must say it was what I considered an artful plan to get rid of older workers, where they encouraged you to take some form of increased severance, and that way you were out of their hair.

I went off to the sunset in Florida to live happily ever after. After about four weeks down there, I said to my wife: "You and I have got to sit down and have a talk. Each morning I go around the park that way and say good morning to those people, and in the afternoon I go around and say good afternoon to those people in the opposite

way. In the evening when I meet them, they tell me what they had to eat the day before, and then this guy says what he had to eat. I can't put up with this. I'm going crackers. I've got to go back to work." She said: "I understand. You're a bit of an oddball."

I would like to see some amendment in my friend's bill that would allow for some cooling-off period so that when you took mandatory retirement, you could step back and say, "This isn't for me," and then you could be welcomed back into the workplace once again.

Age-based retirement severs people from their livelihood. I'd like to go back to the days after the war when my father was forcibly retired. He lasted about two years after that. It absolutely devastated him, the loss of work with very little pension and having to grovel around and do odd jobs for very little money. His whole pride went down the tube. As a matter of fact, he passed away two years after being forced to retire.

I've got a lot of news clips here. This one says, "End Forced Retirement, Council on Aging Says." "Your Opinion"—the London Free Press—"Benefits of Forced Retirement Doubtful." The Supreme Court, "Retirement Judgement Ominous for Women." Another editorial, "Flexible Policy Best on Retirement Issue." "Seniors Totals Soaring but It's a Fit Lot." We're a fit lot, seniors. "Age Ruling Hurts Women Most." "Retirement Ruling Shocking Loss of Rights." "Federal Human Rights Commission Opposed to Mandatory Retirement."

There's a very fine article here by Michael Krashinsky of the department of economics, University of Toronto, "The Case for Eliminating Mandatory Retirement." That's a very interesting document one should read.

On April 1 of this year, I had been working for 50 years. I'm hoping I can work another 30. As a member of this Legislature, along with my colleagues, I am not subject to mandatory retirement. I thank God for that, because if it were mandatory, very shortly I would be getting the pink ticket. So now the pink ticket is in the hands of my constituents. If they're watching this morning, I like the job and I'd be appreciative if they didn't ever give me the pink ticket.

I know there are a number of my colleagues who want to speak on this very important issue. In summary, I would just like to say that, in my opinion, forced, age-based retirement squanders people's talents, it ruins in some cases their health and it drives many elderly people into despair and even poverty. I can speak from the experience of my own father.

Agism today is as odious as racism or sexism. I know my friend's bill is not perfect—no bill that comes before this House is perfect—but I am sure we can work on this and introduce this into some legislation whereby we protect people. This is not forcing people to work over 65; it allows people the choice to continue working and I hope we can do that.

1140

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I also wish to speak to Bill 15, An Act to amend the Human Rights Code, which will prohibit discrimination in employment

against persons 65 and older. There are numerous arguments for and against mandatory retirement. The arguments for include the following: mandatory retirement opens up jobs and promotional opportunities for young workers; it makes it easier for employers to plan and manage pension plans, most of which are calculated on the basis of people retiring at 65 years of age; it makes employers less reluctant to hire middle-aged employees who they know they would be able to retire.

However, there are also arguments against forced retirement. It is an unfair assumption that workers over 65 years of age are less competent than younger people. It systematically discriminates against working women, many of whom, because of family responsibilities, have not worked long enough to earn adequate pensions. It denies people who want to continue working the right to do so. It fails to allow for consideration of individual situations and abilities and it does not take into account the labour shortage this country may face because of our aging population.

Projections show that 20% of our population will be over 65 by the year 2021; no doubt that will include several members of this House. If all elderly workers were forced to retire, eventually there would be a job glut. As mentioned, there is the argument for mandatory retirement that jobs for young Canadians become threatened when older workers do not retire. Even economists who strongly support mandatory retirement agree that mandatory retirement has little to do with youth unemployment.

Employment rates in the long run are not generally dependent on the size of the labour force. Workers who stay in the labour force allow the economy to absorb the labour force increase, because such an increase itself increases demand. Perhaps at the beginning there may be some impact on youth unemployment, but I believe the impact will fade relatively quickly. Another assumption supporting forced retirement is that younger workers are more effective workers. This is debatable, because experience must be recognized.

As you know, Max Yalden, chief of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, recently urged the federal government to abolish mandatory retirement. People over 65 should have legal protection against age discrimination. As Mr Yalden said, "Employees should be judged on their competence, not their age." He went on to say that medical advancements have left Canada facing "an unprecedented extension of human longevity. More and more people will likely feel fit enough to wish to extend their working lives...and we must be prepared to deal with any age discrimination to which that gives rise." I agree with that statement.

An argument for mandatory retirement, as I mentioned previously, is that it makes it easier for employers to plan and manage pension plans, which are calculated on the basis of people retiring, in most cases, at age 65. I believe this is an outdated premise in that what is convenient for an employer is not always best for the employee. The convenience factor is not what should judge the quality of life for citizens over 65.

I do support this bill—however, not without reservations. While researching the topic I read in various articles that there was not a consensus among cabinet ministers on this topic. This is perhaps the reason it is not government legislation but a private member's bill. This is a concern of mine.

The Labour minister, who has traditionally supported the idea of mandatory retirement, now says he is hearing good arguments from the other side. He is impressed with the argument that mandatory retirement discriminates against women. Mandatory retirement is discriminatory to all older persons but it is especially disadvantageous to women because they have not traditionally been able to build up the financial resources that men have. Women traditionally have not earned as much as men, and their work history has often been sporadic because of the demands of child-bearing and child-rearing.

There are also the women who have not worked out of the house but have remained as homemakers. Should their marriage end in divorce or should they become widowed and be thrown into the workforce at this stage in their lives, mandatory retirement at age 65 would force them into unemployment and would cause severe financial deprivation, often accompanied by mental and physical stress. The Minister of Citizenship says she opposes age discrimination but worries about pensions being in place for older workers. But she does not worry about sexual discrimination regarding pensions for women.

We all know that the Supreme Court ruled in late 1990 that age discrimination is justifiable. However, the court also said that if provinces feel strongly about mandatory retirement they could pass laws prohibiting it, and four have done so, as we've heard: Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and New Brunswick. If the Ontario government was serious about addressing this issue it would be presenting this bill as a government bill, not a private member's bill.

I will be supporting this bill. Let's have less regulation of people's lives wherever we can. However, I do hope the government decides to move forward with this legislation and does not let it slide to the bottom of the government's agenda and remain there like so many other private members' bills that should have been introduced as government bills.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I thank the member for his contribution.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I'm very happy to get up and speak to this bill that the honourable member for London South has brought forward.

There's no guarantee that when people become older they are wise, nor that a young person has particularly new and fresh insights on the world. But I was reading once again one of the fine essayists of the 17th century, Sir Richard Steele, who once said, "Age in a virtuous person, of either sex, carries in it an authority which makes it preferable to all the pleasures of youth." Indeed, if we look at those who are creative in their later years, those who are older in society, the contribution they make to their own communities is a contribution based upon the imagination and the spirit and the vision that they have been able to

inculcate within themselves and in their families over the years.

I'd like to say that in the society that we live in today, with better health and the fact that people live longer, there's no question that people of ability who are aging are people who have the raw material and resources that we need to build a better society. So I want to very much applaud the member for London South for bringing this particular bill to the House today.

1150

This is a human rights issue. Back in 1984-85 I had the great honour of working on the task force on equality rights with a number of people across this province who made several recommendations to the government of Canada, and at that time in fact my section for that brief to the parliamentary committee was against agism. There's no question that there are many "isms" in society, whether it is agism or racism. Whatever the problem, we have to say that it is the policy of the members of this House and the policy of the government, indeed, that we cannot accept people to be classified and compartmentalized in a way that is not advantageous to their rights.

So this is very much a human rights issue and I want to underline that. There is no question that such decisions are unfair particularly to women, minorities, refugees and people who have few pension benefits.

I also want to say, in a comment to the member for Simcoe West, that Mr Winninger, the member for London South, has already shown his ability to move private members' bills through the House. His last private member's bill indeed did have third reading and was passed.

Anyway, I want to leave some time for the other honourable members on this side of the House. I am glad to support the member for London South in this.

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): Mandatory retirement is certainly a complex issue. All seven Supreme Court judges agreed that the Ontario Human Rights Code is against the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The code permits mandatory retirement by banning employment discrimination only between ages 18 and 65. However, there is a "notwithstanding" clause which says, "if reasonable limits are justified in a free and democratic society." So the question is, is this discrimination justified?

A little bit of background: First of all, only half the workforce in Ontario has jobs subject to this ruling. The rest do have choices, such as being self-employed.

Second, a very small number wish to work beyond the age of 65. Whom would this affect? Certainly we know of the skilled professionals who have challenged this ruling.

But let's look at the others who are affected beyond these professionals. It also affects non-unionized, part-time workforces that are the least likely to have adequate or indexed pensions. Who are these people? They are, in the main, women. Let's look at the work patterns of women. Women often have interrupted work lives because of child care responsibilities.

Mandatory retirement at 65 recognizes that an average man has worked for more than 40. It does not reflect that a

woman's career very often could have begun at age 35 or 40, on re-entering the workforce after her children have been in school. Women earn less and therefore have less savings—that is very obvious—and also women live longer. These women want to be part of life and of society. Women over 65 can of course be called old women. Maybe society views old women as expendable or irrelevant to the economy. Older women are more likely, statistics prove, to be poor and living on the margins of society.

The question we ask today is, does mandatory retirement serve some overriding public interest? I realize it can certainly be argued both ways. I think what we're dealing with here are the values of equality and freedom. We say we want all people to be equal and retire at 65 to ensure there is not abuse. I believe that once our society has established a social safety net and stopped abuse, and through education there is an atmosphere of equality and a reality of equality, then we can move towards more freedom.

I think this time has come with regard to the issue of retirement. I believe we want choice, for each citizen of Ontario to choose to be able to join a union. I also believe we want choice for people at 65 to work or to retire.

The Speaker: Further debate?

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): As the member for the riding of Lambton it is with pleasure that I rise today and speak in favour of this bill. I would also like to compliment my colleague from the riding of London South for his consideration in this regard.

There is a perception in the public that the abolition of mandatory retirement will prevent access to jobs for the younger people. However, I remember very much the day a younger member of my family came to me with great consternation. This person was working where many senior people had taken an early retirement rather than be laid off. The concern he expressed to me was, "There's no one left to represent my dad." In other words, he could not find anyone with more years or experience than himself to confide in or to discuss the whole job situation with. As a young person he felt left alone. He was not denying that many of the retirees were deserving of the retirement but was questioning the validity of leaving the responsibility that had been placed on them on short notice.

If mandatory retirement at age 65 was law, I would not have the great privilege of being here today and being allowed to speak for the riding of Lambton. When I was elected I was elected to stand up for Lambton, and in Lambton there are many wonderful people past this imaginary retirement age who are contributing a great deal to our community as well as to the province of Ontario. I know of one woman in Lambton who is well over the age of 70 and is still contributing to the whole of Canada in the health care sector. Why should she be deprived of that opportunity to serve this country because of her age, and why should all of us be deprived of gaining from her work and knowledge because of her age?

Life at 60 is terrific. Life at 66 is even more terrific. I know because I'm there. So let us allow others the same opportunity and let us not force retirement on them that would deprive those of us who need their skills, their

knowledge and their experience. It is noteworthy that there is no real, particular evidence that indicates productivity declines with age, and I'll include myself. A measure of the peculiar way many people view the older citizen is to substitute any other group into this debate. It would be considered intolerable to ask women, Asians or people of different religious organizations to step aside to provide a place for a younger person to be employed.

The Speaker: I thank the member for Lambton for her contribution. The member for London South has two minutes to wrap up the debate.

Mr Winner: I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues the members for Lambton, Victoria-Haliburton, Durham East, Niagara Falls, Simcoe West, Oriole and Brant-Haldimand for their thoughtful comments and personal perspectives. I can certainly appreciate the unique perspectives members bring to bear on this issue, because I too had a grandfather in Austria whose career was interrupted in midlife during the war, and he had the opportunity there to practise law well into his 80s. I think that had he been denied that opportunity it would have had a tremendous effect not only on his mental, physical and emotional wellbeing but certainly, in the post-war years in Europe, a very deleterious effect on his ability to earn an income.

Many of the points I'd hoped to make earlier in these proceedings have been made by my colleagues on all sides of the House and I appreciate the support they bring to this issue. As indicated by all members, a projected labour shortage in the future, as our population ages and fertility declines, merits that we take action now to address the issue. We need to utilize the productivity of our seniors to the greatest extent possible. Rather than saying to people at the arbitrary age of 65, "You no longer have value," we need to affirm that value. Certainly the employers of today are far more inclined to rate the productivity of people over the age of 65 higher than they did 20 years ago, for example.

For those who make economic arguments that our society can't afford to abolish mandatory retirement, just remember that in the United States 90% of those who have elected to stay on after the age of 65 leave the labour force after two years. In Canada we've made the necessary

amendments to the Canada pension plan to allow people to work on after 65. Thank you for the opportunity of making these concluding remarks.

1200

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

The House divided on Mr Carr's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes—8

Arnott, Carr, Cunningham, Jackson, Jordan, Sterling, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West).

Nays—43

Bisson, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Cooper, Coppen, Cordiano, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Eddy, Ferguson, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lessard, MacKinnon, Mammoliti, Mancini, Miclash, Mills, Morin, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, O'Neil (Quinte), Owens, Poole, Ruprecht, Sutherland, Waters, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winner, Wiseman.

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LE CODE DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Mr Winner has moved second reading of Bill 15.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: The bill will be referred to committee of the whole House.

Mr David Winner (London South): I would ask, with the consent of the House, that the bill be referred to the standing committee on justice.

Bill ordered for the standing committee on administration of justice.

The Speaker: All matters related to private members' public business having been dealt with, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30 this afternoon.

The House recessed at 1210.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAILING

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): As we head into another peak of the tourist season in northern Ontario, many of the operators in the area are concerned about the season they face. Some of them are no longer concerned because they have gone bankrupt.

A good number of operators suggest that the upcoming season may not be all that great. Higher gasoline taxes, higher tobacco taxes, higher alcohol taxes and higher costs across the board are things that discourage travel in the northern part of this province. I can only hope that my friend the Treasurer, the member for Nickel Belt, a northerner as well, has paid some attention to the northern tourist industry in the budget he will release in full today.

But how can I be optimistic when I've received this in the mail: the NDP promoting a trip to Costa Rica, of all things, suggesting that if I make a contribution to the party it will give me a chance to win a trip for two, all expenses paid, to Costa Rica. This package epitomizes the NDP government. The mascot is a three-toed sloth. The NDP has been in power for 19 months and it has not done anything to soften the recession.

The entry form starts off with, "Yes, I don't care what the opposition says," and I often question myself as to whether the Honourable Bob Mackenzie thought up this line when he was devising his labour reforms and included it in this package. It goes on to say, "I promise you, your generosity would not be forgotten." Shirley, does that ring a bell?

The NDP is going to give two people a break from a weary Ontario winter. Why do they not give all Ontarians a break by creating some jobs? Why don't they give our tourist operators a break and promote tourism right here in Ontario?

ROAD MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I want to bring to the attention of this House how the NDP government appears to be punishing the people of my riding of Wellington for not having elected an NDP member.

As you know, Mr Speaker, funding for our municipal road system largely comes from the Ministry of Transportation. At the Ontario Good Roads Association convention in February, the minister promised a 1% increase in the total provincial base allocation to municipalities. The Wellington county roads committee in my riding actually budgeted for a 5% decrease because it was trying to be cautious. It was stunned to learn in late February that it was actually going to receive 8% less than last year, a full \$441,000 less than last year's allocation.

This was bad enough, but then we learned that the city of Guelph actually received a 4% increase over its allocation for last year. The people of my riding understand and accept the need for fiscal restraint, but they were angered

by this blatant example of favouritism shown to an NDP-held riding at the expense of one held by the opposition.

In my riding important projects, roads and bridges will not be built and will have to be put off as a result of this government. I demand that the Minister of Transportation review this matter. The county roads committee is awaiting his response to its letter of protest. I call upon him to abandon this cynical, manipulative and outrageous policy of showing favouritism and punishing ridings which have shown the wisdom not to vote for the NDP.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West): This year our government took major steps to open up the budget-making process. For the first time ever, we gave people information on how budgets are made and shared details of the economic and fiscal challenges facing Ontario.

In my riding of Scarborough West, I conducted three pre-budget consultations with community leaders representing businesses, unions, social services, community organizations and others.

Some of those participants are here in the members' gallery now and will remain as my guests today to hear the Treasurer's presentation of the budget. I would like to acknowledge the presence of Jim Russell of General Motors, who is chair of the East Metro Industrial Training Advisory Committee, Mai Cheng of the Chinese Canadian Association of Scarborough, Melinda Rooke, executive director of the Second Base Youth Shelter, and Christine Chun, coordinator of the Scarborough Housing Help Centre.

Participants encouraged our government's program reviews to cut waste, duplication and excess administration. Many spoke of the need to protect and improve needed human services. They called for better and more coordinated training programs. They called for greater use of welfare funding to help people get back to work. They expressed concern for the budget deficit, while also demanding action on the deficit of jobs and infrastructure.

My government and I hope that our constituents will feel heard by our Treasurer's budget today. I will be meeting again with my community's leaders to determine how well we will have met that test, and I thank them for their participation in making democracy work.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have two letters from constituents which outline a need which is very great in the Niagara Peninsula.

One is from Jack Leake of St Catharines. He writes:

"The Hotel Dieu Hospital, St Catharines, has operated the regional life support program for dialysis in the Niagara Peninsula since 1974. Since that time, the program has not received any funding from the Ministry of Health. As a result, the dialysis unit is in dire need of renovation and requires new equipment to ensure that safe and quality care is given to patients.

"I have written numerous letters to Premier Bob Rae and the Minister of Health, the Honourable Frances Lankin,

asking that the Hotel Dieu Hospital, St Catharines, receive its fair portion of the \$23-million dialysis fund. Now those moneys are gone and a new \$49 million is to be spent for dialysis, bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy and heart surgery.

"What portion of this will go to Hotel Dieu Hospital, St Catharines? The hospital has prepared proposals and made presentations to no avail. The patients are getting tired of waiting for a response while conditions continue to deteriorate....

"Can you help us to get fair funding in the Niagara regional dialysis program?"

The other was a letter from Diane Reed, who is a peer volunteer, outlining the very difficult circumstances facing patients, the families of patients and those who serve the patients at Hotel Dieu Hospital. Within the allocation which has been presented to the Minister of Health, I ask that she give urgent consideration to providing those funds to Hotel Dieu Hospital.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): My colleague Bill Murdoch, the member for Grey, recently raised the issue of the London-Middlesex arbitration report and legislation which will follow. I too am very interested in this issue, especially as it relates to the farming community surrounding London.

The report states that the annexed agricultural land must be protected and cannot be built on for at least 10 years. If this farm land is important enough to protect against development, why then would this government even consider including it within the city of London? Why will the protection exist for only 10 years? A good question. Is protection of farm land not a priority of this government beyond a 10-year period?

It will seem very odd to have an agricultural community within a major city, and the situation raises many concerns. I am not sure that any major urban area, no matter how well intentioned, can protect the rights of farmers as they relate to raising livestock and producing crops within the city limits of London. How will the city handle the reduced rate for hydro paid by farmers? Will this be lost? Will city people living on farms pay more for electricity?

This is a serious issue. If the Minister of Municipal Affairs does not care, he should at least speak with the Minister of Agriculture and Food; I think he does. I would ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs to consider the plight of the Middlesex farmers before those farmers join the city of London federation of agriculture.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): In the first speech from the throne, this government signalled its desire and intention to reform the outdated labour relations laws of this province. Revising the rules on how employers and employees relate to one another—that's essentially what the act is about—will make the labour relations structure more efficient and effective in this province.

The minister has indicated time and time again that he's prepared to look at any vehicle to reduce confrontation. Unfortunately some but not all in the business community have accepted that this government is going to move into the 1990s in terms of labour legislation in this province.

There is no doubt at all that we all must adjust to a new competitive reality. For business that means a strategy that ensures profitability and for workers it's a strategy which provides job security and enrichment of the quality of their lives, their families and their communities.

The workers of this province clearly have demonstrated that they do want to enter into a meaningful partnership with the business community. I believe that when the new Labour Relations Act is introduced, it will indeed be an act of confidence: confidence in the workers of this province, confidence in our quality of life and confidence that together business and labour will be able to compete provincially, federally and globally.

1340

GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): It's one thing for a bunch of oppositionists to decry the antics of our NDP friends from Clapperville; it's another thing, I suppose, for the Ottawa Citizen to editorialize as it did this week that Bob Rae has become the Jerry Brown of Ontario politics, gyrating madly around in a kind of policy vacuum. It's another thing, I notice, to see Allan Fotheringham write about how our Premier has become Premier Prude.

All of these things, I think, might be considered as part of the regular fare, but what are we to make of it when major pillars in the NDP of Ontario like Professor Rob Martin are writing in the provincial press such as the London Free Press of yesterday? Of course, Mr Martin is well known to all of us as a very distinguished professor at the University of Western Ontario's law school, twice a candidate for the New Democratic Party.

What is Mr Martin writing? He's writing among other things that "the NDP of the 1990s doesn't seem to have any ideas or principles." He goes on to observe that "the government of Robert K. Rae, QC, has shown us the party's moral bankruptcy." He goes on to conclude by saying: "The NDP today manages to be both pathetic and obscene, ludicrous and grotesque. It has betrayed its constituency, betrayed its history, betrayed itself."

I say in conclusion only this, that as Premier Rae prepares to wing his way to New York City, Tokyo and Hong Kong, he might want to make a detour to Australia to talk to Bob Hawke as to how one avoids being deposed as a Labour Prime Minister who loses his way.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Market value re-assessment bears no relationship to municipal services used or ability to pay. This system may be fair in areas that have stable home prices, but not in my riding of York Mills or Metropolitan Toronto. It becomes a tax on location.

The former Liberal government mandated 1988 values as the basis of assessment. These artificially high values

are not realistic in today's market. The convoluted implementation plan proposed by Metro council will have the commercial sector subsidizing home owners and industry for five years. Approximately \$200 million of taxes will be shifted annually from the residential and industrial class to the commercial class. More than 14,000 businesses in the city of Toronto alone would face tax increases of greater than 25%. More than 6,000 would see 100% tax increases in 1993.

These tax increases would have a particularly devastating impact on businesses just coming out of a major recession. Many firms may be forced into bankruptcy or relocation. Metro Toronto cannot afford more job losses at this time of hardship and high unemployment. Metro Toronto is already penalized by the Liberal commercial concentration tax which takes approximately \$100 million from Toronto each year.

The Minister of Revenue cannot play Pontius Pilate and wash her hands of this decision. It remains her responsibility to see fairness is attained.

VOLUNTEERS

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): As all members are aware, it is National Volunteer Week and in appreciation I would like to share a story about volunteerism. Next fall when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in V formation, you might consider what science has discovered about why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they're travelling on the thrust of one another. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as the goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are. When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying south. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with the goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it's able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with the group. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: This is a point of privilege which is important to every member of this House because I believe our rights as members have been abrogated. We, as members, have a

responsibility, indeed a duty, to assist our constituents in cutting through red tape and getting problems solved at Queen's Park. I believe that a government agency has abrogated those rights, those responsibilities and those duties. The Office of the Ombudsman has paid for an ad campaign which says, "Getting nowhere at Queen's Park? Call the Ombudsman," with a 1-800 number.

First, I believe it usurps the responsibility of an MPP, whose duty and responsibility it is to solve his constituents' problems with Queen's Park. Second, I believe it is very misleading. The Ombudsman's office is a court of final and last resort. What will happen is that our constituents will phone this 1-800 number. At that stage they'll be told, no, it is more appropriate that they phone the MPP. By the time they call our office, we have wasted enormous taxpayers' dollars and completely confused and misled our constituents. I would ask you to rule on—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member take her seat, please. I realize the member for Eglinton has an item which is of interest and concern to her. It does not, however, constitute a point of privilege, although I do appreciate the fact that she has brought it to our attention and to the attention of the House.

Ms Poole: Mr Speaker, can I ask for your advice and assistance in how one would deal with this type of problem, which I believe does abrogate the responsibilities of members of this House?

The Speaker: All I can say to the member in her request for information is that the Ombudsman is an officer of the House and operates at arm's length from the government of the day. The member, of course, is quite free to contact the Ombudsman in person if she wishes to and to bring her concerns to the attention of the Ombudsman. Perhaps that is of assistance. I don't know what else I can add to that in trying to assist the member.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It may be furthering this request for assistance, but certainly there is a jurisdiction here in the Legislative Assembly of all the members of all the parties, and I think the point the member raises is a point of concern to all of us. Perhaps if you could look into the matter you might be able to give us all better advice on how we could address this problem.

The Speaker: I should add one other point of information which would be perhaps of assistance. Since the Ombudsman is an officer of the House, one avenue to explore is that the matter can be brought to the Board of Internal Economy. Of course, all three parties are represented on that board. It is a matter which can be dealt with there. There is also a committee of the Legislature for the Ombudsman, which again is an all-party committee, and the matter can be dealt with in that avenue as well.

1350

JAYNE SUTHERLAND

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Perhaps you'll find it to be more of a point of information than a point of order, but I would be

very remiss if I didn't rise in the House today and indicate to you and other members present and their staffs that today happens to be the last day, serving in her current capacity, of Jayne Sutherland, my executive assistant. I can tell you that anybody who can tolerate me for over eight years certainly has to be an individual of outstanding character.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I thank the member for his point of information. There is in fact nothing out of order, and you would not want the Speaker to comment on anyone's tolerance of other members.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I'd certainly like to join with Ernie in saying that this is a wise career move on Jayne's part, but I do want to say that when I was an opposition House leader and since I've been over on this side as well, the working relationship that's existed between the three offices, but particularly with Jayne and with the Conservative office because of Jayne and only because of Jayne, has been a very good working relationship. She's very professional and very helpful and respects the parliamentary procedure. We all wish Jayne well in her next career, although I think she's going to work for the federal Tories, so I think we should all have a little sympathy as well.

The Speaker: House leader for the official opposition.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): If I may, just a few brief words. I got to work twice with Ms Sutherland. Instead of just on one occasion for eight years, mine were for many shorter months. I would only ask that when she leaves she leave her copy of the Jayne Sutherland annotated standing orders with me so we too can make use of her really deep-seated understanding of the way this place works. I know she was receiving instruction and debate, no doubt, with her own employer, but it has been a pleasure to see someone here who knows how to do her job and to work very well at it.

I must say that I hope she's on secondment. I wouldn't want to see her go without employ after Mr Chrétien and others in the federal Liberal Party have an opportunity to deal with Mr Andre, who is about to become her employer, and others in the next federal election. But from someone who likes to deal with rules and procedure and administration, I can tell you that I was very much taken by the depth of her knowledge, her understanding, and sometimes, although we're not partisan in those meetings, she does know how to take the advantage and she is very skilled. Mr Harvie Andre's gain is obviously going to be Ernie's loss. Maybe that's something that will give us some gain as well, although I know her replacement, Ms Hutton, will probably do a very good job indeed.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): My question is to the Minister of Education. Yesterday, Mr Minister, you talked about reform of the educational system, based on reshaping and restructuring. Other words for those are downgrading and downsizing.

My community of Ottawa-Carleton and many communities right across this province are finding your statements about educational reform based on cooperation and partnerships contradictory, counterproductive and confusing. Your government says you recognize the difficulties of 1% transfer payments to education. "We really do understand." You say this; your Premier says this. The words ring very hollow.

You said in this House yourself, Mr Minister, on April 13, "Teachers' federations and school boards...need to be looking at the question of salary packages and what has been happening versus what we believe needs to happen." Mr Minister, what do you really mean when you say that teachers and boards need to be looking at salary packages? What do you really believe needs to happen?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): What I really believe needs to happen is that in the same way school boards are being asked by us to look at the administrative costs of their budgets, which we all know are in the neighbourhood of 25% to 30% of their budgets, we also need to be encouraging school boards, teachers' federations and support staff employee groups to be looking at ways of managing the salary costs of school board budgets, because we know that's the largest portion. What that means in terms of how that translates into different ways of looking at that is really something that needs to be worked out at the local level.

The end result that we believe is useful is one that looks at wage increases that are more in line with the kind of inflationary increases we've seen, along with a number of issues that we know teachers and other employers continue to raise, whether it's in terms of increased job security provisions or other kinds of things that are of benefit to teachers and other employees and obviously are of benefit to our students. The more we can protect jobs on the teaching side in education, the more it allows us to protect the kinds of programs that we all want to see maintained in our schools.

Mrs O'Neill: Mr Minister, you know that 15,000 secondary students in the Carleton Board of Education have been out of class for 21 days and that 1,900 elementary teachers in that same board are about to take a vote to work to rule. This is a school board, I remind you, that has never had a teachers' strike. My question to you is, do you realize the pressure, the impossible burden, placed on the ratepayers in Carleton by the recent Ottawa Board of Education 4% settlement for 1992, a settlement you said you can't do anything about? Then again, you said there will be results like this. I now ask, what advice, what creative solutions, to use your own words, are you offering to the members of the Carleton community in their almost impossible situation and in their very painful dilemma?

Hon Mr Silipo: I'm not sure which way the members opposite want to have this. The other day I was asked by the leader of the official opposition about whether I was interfering in the collective bargaining process. Now I'm being asked, if I can surmise from the question, why I didn't interfere to produce a different result from the one that was produced through a locally bargained collective

agreement. I think the issue remains that the agreement reached in the Ottawa situation was one that the parties felt they could agree to. Obviously the school board, in arriving at that agreement, had to size up what it felt it could afford and could pay. They knew fully well the kind of situation they were in.

We are obviously monitoring very closely what is happening in Carleton. I know there are meetings scheduled between the mediator and the parties tomorrow. Obviously we will continue to monitor that situation very closely. As in the Ottawa situation, I remain convinced that in fact there is an ability of the parties to come together and come to a collective agreement at the local level.

Mrs O'Neill: Mr Minister, you must know how divisive all across the community of Ottawa-Carleton the Ottawa settlement has been. The Carleton Board of Education and many boards are in a dilemma. They're upset. They're weary. They've been trying for months and months to set budgets, to negotiate collective agreements—again, to use your own words, collective agreements that are fair to local taxpayers and to students.

The province is looking to you for a clear message. They are looking to you for some leadership. You have said—again, I use your own words—that there are other things you may be able to do. How about being a bit forthcoming and telling them the other things they're able to do? How do you propose to work out a way—again, I'm using your own words—with the Carleton Board of Education to get those students who have been out for 21 days back to their classes Monday morning?

Hon Mr Silipo: The other things we can do are not things I have been holding back in terms of indicating to people what they are. I've been talking to representatives of school boards and teachers' federations and others over the last number of months, as I'm sure the member well knows. I have said to them that there was some help in terms of the transition funds; I announced those funds here last week. We've just sent out a letter to school boards with some of those details. I've said to school boards that we are looking at what we can do in the capital area. That's another indication.

Obviously, in terms of the Carleton situation, I've indicated that we'll continue to monitor that situation. The parties are talking to each other. I understand the mediator is meeting with the parties tomorrow. I believe that there's an opportunity there for a settlement to be reached, for the parties to come together and deal with the issues they need to deal with in the kind of relationship they have at the local bargaining level.

1400

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The minister is aware of the greater London area arbitrator's report concerning the annexation of a large, indeed a huge, part of the county of Middlesex by the city of London. The minister will also be aware this is the first time an arbitrator has been commissioned by a provincial government to resolve a boundary dispute. There are many people across the province

who are concerned this will set a precedent for future boundary disputes by undermining the effectiveness of the Boundaries Act.

As you are aware, Mr Minister, the arbitrator's report gave the city of London 64,000 acres from the county of Middlesex. The city of London's own study recommended only 12,000 acres from the county be turned over to the city. What is the rationale for taking this 64,000 acres of land, much of which is prime farm land, from the county? Why has the arbitrator whom you appointed given the city of London over five times as much as the city's own study recommended?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I appreciate the question. I think the member will know better than any of us in the Legislature how long this debate has been going on in London. As an administrator in the county, he might even have been able to have some influence in terms of the position the county has taken and the position the city has taken over the last 11 years this issue has been in dispute. The member will also know that other disputes in this province, like the one in Sarnia and Clearwater, went on for 42 years. It's absolutely essential that we find some process in the province whereby annexation disputes can be solved in a rational way and an appropriate time.

The economic situation in the London area was such that without some decision being made the possibility of economic growth was being interfered with. A decision had to be made. The choice was that either I could make it unilaterally without any public hearings or I could appoint a local person to have public hearings and make that decision at the local level. I think local people should be given that opportunity, and that's what I did.

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): Mr Minister, this is the first time I have heard a minister from your government measuring the time of negotiations. This is the first time I've heard that in this House. You're for ever asking people to negotiate and this is what the people in the county of Middlesex and London wanted you to do through your arbitrator.

Mr Minister, do you realize what 64,000 acres represent? Let me put it in perspective. It represents approximately the size of the city of Mississauga. It also represents 35% of the property tax base of Middlesex. How can you justify the decision of your arbitrator to take away over a third of the county's tax base, with no land needs study to justify this?

Hon Mr Cooke: I think if the member has read the report, he'll see the rationale behind the decision Mr Brant, the arbitrator, has made in terms of having the airport in the city, which is appropriate, and having Westminster in the city. The member will know, being a former Minister of Municipal Affairs, that there were serious planning and environmental problems. In fact, there was even a development freeze on that part of the community, which I believe he or the person who followed him in the ministry put on that community.

Decisions had to be made. If the former minister doesn't like the decision I've made, there always was another

option. This dispute had been going on for 11 years. The previous government could have got off the fence and made the decision long before we took office, but it was afraid to make that decision.

Mr Eddy: As I mentioned earlier, the following decisions of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, namely, (1) to appoint a sole arbitrator to make recommendations to the minister within 60 days of his appointment on a new structural arrangement for the greater London area and (2) "to legislate whatever the arbitrator recommends," represent a precedent that will ultimately affect the way boundary disputes are handled in the future in this province.

Will the minister agree to send this legislation, once introduced, to a standing committee of this House for full and public hearings?

Hon Mr Cooke: What I will agree to do is to table the legislation when it is ready. I would ask the critics for the official opposition to take a look at the legislation, and then we'll talk about how the legislation is going to be handled.

The other thing I'd like to say to the associate critic and the critic for the official opposition is that I will not support any amendments from the opposition party that would institute the recommendations that are being made by the former member for Middlesex back in London right now, whereby he says that the solution of this would be to amalgamate Elgin county and Middlesex county in one huge regional government. That's the way to end rural Ontario, and I don't support that approach taken by the Liberal Party.

BUDGET SECURITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the House leader on the government side. I have some concern with respect to your government's determination—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Will the member take his seat, please. The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have some concern with respect to your government's interpretation of a budget leak. Considering some of the information that was divulged yesterday through the information on the car tax etc, the teachers' pension fund and the delisting of drugs and so on, it seems to me there could be some private sector gain for some of the information that was in fact contained in the estimates that were released yesterday.

Mr House Leader, my question to you is, having studied the document now overnight and your staff seeing it, is there any sense in your mind that there could be some information used for gain by the public?

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): No, there's no concern about that at all. That point was made very clear yesterday. I was listening to Metro Morning on CBC Radio this morning and heard the two business commentators who are on weekly take that question and that argument and describe it as rather a frivolous comment. They said it was impossible to make gains from such things as increases in the Attorney General's budget.

I also read in the Financial Post today where the former Premier of Ontario and the former Treasurer of Ontario, Frank Miller, said: "I don't see that as a key part of the budget. I wouldn't be too upset about it being made public. The spending estimates wouldn't worry me at all." Now that's from Frank Miller, one of yours, and I agree with his position.

Mr Stockwell: It is rather interesting that when Mr Miller had what they described as a budget leak, they had a very different opinion than Mr Miller shared at that time. It's rather interesting as well that today you're starting to take direction from Mr Frank Miller. You didn't seem to listen to him when he was in government. I'm very shocked today. Now Frank Miller is one of your closest advisers.

If you understand the car business, in the information that was outlined yesterday you are now going to a Red Book value on resale vehicles. A Red Book value is an estimate on an amount of a car. Many cars are sold under Red Book value. If you check with your licence offices today, I would suggest there would be a flurry of activity from wholesalers, retailers or even individuals selling their cars today, because they know they're not valued at Red Book value. They're going to get less than that and they're going to avoid the taxes they'd have to pay tomorrow.

The direct question to the House leader is, have you examined this point? It seems rather clear to me that you're going to see a flurry of activity at your motor vehicle licence offices. The question is, don't you consider that to be information that's a little privileged before the budget's announced?

1410

Hon Mr Cooke: I think what the member should do is wait until the budget is tabled and wait until he sees the details of any proposals that might exist in the budget, and I think he'll see that the question he just asked is rather irrelevant and off base.

Mr Stockwell: So the announcement made by the Treasurer yesterday that in fact it was substantive, it formed the majority of the budget that's coming out today, was incorrect? Because when that question was put, that response was given by the Treasurer. He in fact discussed that at length yesterday, the curbsider, the Red Book value on used vehicles passing between less than arm's-length, between people in the same family or friends.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat. The member for Etobicoke West with his final supplementary.

Mr Stockwell: It's obvious they're restless on the other side of the House because absolutely everyone in the province has more information than backbenchers in that government.

The Speaker: Would the member place his final supplementary.

Mr Stockwell: Maybe if these people played their cards right they might get directions to the caucus office.

The Speaker: Does the member have a final supplementary?

Mr Stockwell: The question I put to the House leader for the government is simply this: Your Treasurer did admit that this in fact was part of the budget and it was going to be part of the budget today. We are going to know at 4 o'clock. The jig will be up at 4 o'clock when it's told that the estimates that were released yesterday will accurately reflect the estimates that are in place when the budget's announced.

Will you undertake to monitor the amount of business that the motor vehicle offices are doing today, the amount of transactions that are taking place on used vehicles and Red Book-valued vehicles, to see if in fact any gain was made by wholesalers, retailers or curbsiders?

Hon Mr Cooke: Again I would like to suggest to the member that he might want to wait for the budget to be tabled, see if there are any proposals that even come close to what he's suggesting will be in it, and I think he might determine later on this afternoon that his question is not really on base at all.

ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development.

Interjections.

Mrs Cunningham: A good day. There must be something going on over there that I don't understand.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Now that you have everyone's attention, could you place your question.

Mrs Cunningham: Mr Minister, in the last few weeks there have been many discussions on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board makeup, and we asked a question in the House a couple of weeks ago about that. I think you would understand that in the next few days, beginning in Thunder Bay and Timmins and North Bay and Kingston and a few days in Toronto, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Cobourg—there are many people who have taken a lot of time to give your government what they feel is pretty important information.

Given that the consultation meetings are still taking place and given that I did ask you a question on April 9 with regard to this governing body makeup being a done deal and that you responded in the negative, Mr Minister, and said that you were open for suggestions, I'm going to ask you why at this time there are still nominations being required and requested for the makeup of the board members. Why are you continuing to ask that the nominations be fulfilled for these positions when we really don't know what they are?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development): I think the answer is contained in the question. There is a consultation process in place. It will not be until the middle of May that all of the sectors that are consulting together will come together to iron out some of the issues that still exist in the wake of the consultation. At that time the terms of reference will be worked out for responding to those issues.

Then in mid-June there will be a round table meeting of all those groups that will put the final details in place around representation and all those questions. That's why we continue to ask people to comment and respond with respect to all those aspects of the issue.

Mrs Cunningham: The submission day for the response to this OTAB paper was originally set for April 30, and it's my understanding that it has been extended to May 15. The hearings I have down here end on May 7, but it's my understanding that they have been extended to May 15, but we also have the nomination process ending on May 12.

I'm wondering if the minister can clarify if in fact these nominating committees, the different subcommittees, are being asked to put forth the recommendations for these positions on May 12. It seems to me that we have a very major problem in communication.

Hon Mr Allen: No. Final nominations for the board or any aspect of the board's operations are not deadlined at May 12 or any other specific date at this point in time.

Mrs Cunningham: Minister, the unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24, the young people in our province, rose from 17.2% in January to 18.7% in February, the last numbers I could get. We're looking at about 164,000 young people. This is the highest youth unemployment rate in almost a decade—in nine years, at least.

I would ask the minister at this time, since youths are major consumers of education and training, would he consider, given the representations we've had before the committees, appointing them specifically as having their own voice on the OTAB training board? Is that something he's going to be looking at in his deliberations, since it has been a major recommendation on behalf of the youth training groups?

Hon Mr Allen: As the member for London North has correctly indicated, that question has come up in a number of the consultations and it has been proposed that youth representatives might be among the equity groups represented upon the board or upon its subsidiary councils. Those matters are all being taken under consideration and will be looked at in the context of the cross-sectoral meetings and also at the round table. I think their claims will have to be weighed in the context of all the claims that can be made for representation on the board to get the most effective board in place.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): My question is for the Minister of Health. Minister, you and I have spoken in this place, we've had questions, I have written to you—I have, in fact, many pieces of correspondence—with respect to the Chinguacousy Health Services Centre. To date I have certainly received no answers from you and, more important, leadership in the community feels it has not had anything forthcoming from you particularly. In fact, the only response I have received is one sentence in the general, three-page press release two weeks ago.

No explanation has been given—none whatsoever—and it leaves me to conclude one of two things. One is that

you do not understand—and I say this with respect—the implications of your decision, or perhaps you have not been made aware of the implications of your decision for the community of Brampton—a decision, I might add, that many feel may very well stretch beyond the breaking point an already strained system.

Minister, knowing full well that I will do everything, as you would expect, to have you review and revisit that decision together with leaders in my community, will you at least sit down with my colleague the member for Brampton South and the leadership in the community, whether it be civic and/or a combination of people from the Chinguacousy health services board, a request I put to you as early as last winter? In fact, on December 18 I put it to you verbally and in writing.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his question, please?

Mr McClelland: Would you at least sit down and offer some sort of explanation and rationale for the decision you have made that has very serious implications for our community?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): Yes. I can say to the member I am prepared to do that. In fact, he may well know that such a meeting was actually going to be held today. That was prior to today being named budget day. We realized that it was not appropriate timing and we are going to restructure it.

There have been some problems in terms of communications from my office to the offices of the two MPPs involved in this, and for that I'm quite apologetic. On the day the press release was released I had given instructions that calls be placed to those offices. In fact what happened was that press releases were simply faxed to their constituency offices. That's not acceptable and I do apologize for that.

1420

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): As an example of another hospital waiting for funding, I believe you're aware that in my riding of Quinte the Trenton Memorial Hospital's physical plant is in very poor condition. It has both structural and functional problems, yet I would like to say that it's one of the best-run in the province.

In the summer of 1990 the then Minister of Health, the honourable Elinor Caplan, gave approval for the hospital to proceed with the plans, consistent with the innovative direction proposed by the hospital with advice from your ministry and in parallel with a comprehensive health organization feasibility development study. Minister, I might also add that over \$5.5 million has been pledged locally towards this project. Can you tell me today when the hospital will be given the funding approval to proceed with the plans that have been discussed with your ministry?

Hon Ms Lankin: I would like to thank the member for the question, because it provides me with an opportunity to explain to a number of members in the House the process we're going through yet again.

At the end of January I announced that we were reviewing all capital approvals in the hospital sector, and as you may know, in conjunction with announcing a 1%

transfer payment we felt it was important that approvals that were out there be consistent with both the new planning guidelines in terms of the number of patient-days per thousand, moving in that direction, and with respect to plans that wouldn't increase pressures on operating costs. We certainly ensured that projects that were already in the ground and under way were released from that review and went ahead.

The next group we focused on were those that had tenders out. There were a number whose tenders were actually expiring on April 30. Some we got extended to April 30. We've dealt with that batch and in this past week we gave the responses out.

We are now moving to the next group, which includes the hospital the member raises, the Trenton hospital. In fact I do concur with him that the hospital has taken great strides towards reducing patient-days per thousand. The review we hope will be done in a very expeditious way. I am not going to assure you, but I'm hopeful that by about the end of May we will have a response for the hospital about whether it can proceed and in what way it can proceed.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): My question is to the Minister of Health. Minister, you are aware that next week is Mental Health Week in Ontario. The Ontario division of the Canadian Mental Health Association wants your government to adopt as policy recommendation 1 of the 1988 Graham report, which gives priority to developing community-based mental health services and building partnerships between consumers, families, service providers and government.

I'd like to read a quote uttered in this chamber three years ago by the former member for Riverdale, who was also the NDP Health critic:

"We cannot deal with mental illness as though it were something contained entirely within the person who we suspect has mental illness. We have to deal with the economic, social and, dare I say, spiritual opportunities people need. The Graham report offers some hope in this regard."

The former NDP Health critic and now chief adviser to the Premier, David Reville, the Canadian Mental Health Association and local district health councils support the Graham report. Minister, do you support the Graham report?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): Yes, I think the work that went into the Graham report, and particularly some of the secondary reports that will be forthcoming that have involved consumer survivors and families in the development of those recommendations with respect to implementation, are very important pieces of work.

I can inform the member that as a result of the overview we did of the strategic directions and goals for the ministry the mental health delivery system is a priority of review for us in terms of trying to bring some linkages in the system. I think right now we have a system of facilities—that is, psych hospitals and psych units in hospitals—and we have a non-system of delivery on the community side. There is a tremendous opportunity to build proper linkages and deliver better services, and we are currently working

on the plan for that. We have set ourselves some goalposts in terms of timing over the next few months to release elements of working documents, and I'm hopeful the member will see that there is some progress that is being made in this area.

Mr Jim Wilson: Minister, I appreciate what you're trying to do in this area, but I want to point out that it continues to be a disturbing fact in this province that 140 people with psychiatric problems are discharged into the community from hospitals every day without the necessary community supports in place.

In the Kitchener-Waterloo region hundreds of seriously ill psychiatric patients are being told to take a number and wait because of a lack of community-based services. Hundreds of patients are going without care, and no local referrals have been made since January 1990.

The Kitchener-Waterloo health council wants to develop better community-based services, but your ministry is refusing to help, and I quote from the Kitchener-Waterloo Record of April 23. It says, "Council members noted that the ministry's latest position seems to fly in the face of its earlier commitment to the mentally ill."

The lack of mental health services in communities is reaching a crisis proportion and it carries a significant social pricetag. When can we expect a leap from philosophical agreement to concrete action in developing community-based mental health services?

Hon Ms Lankin: May I say, for a member of the Conservative Party, which was responsible for the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric patients in this province without putting in place any community supports at all, to raise these concerns and criticisms is taking things a bit too far.

May I just say, giving a word of credit to the Liberal government, that over a period of five years the kind of investment that went into starting to build the community network was substantial. Had we seen that from the third party at the time the policy of deinstitutionalization started, we would be much further ahead.

To answer the question, we'll see continued investment in the community side this year. We'll also see an effort to take what is a fragmented system of community delivery to try to work with those community deliverers, to try to put an end to the duplication of administration and other sorts of problems that take money away from direct delivery of services, and look at enhancing services within the very limited resources we have available.

We will also, in trying to bring together a comprehensive framework, hopefully for the first time be able to have a strategy of reallocation of dollars from the hospital side, the institutional psychiatric facility side, to the community.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): My question is to the Minister of the Environment.

As you know, my riding of Lincoln has been selected as the proposed site for the location of a toxic waste facility, to be built and operated by the Ontario Waste Management Corp. The proposal is currently before an environmental assessment review board.

Recently evidence was brought forward that shows the facility will ultimately contaminate the groundwater in the area where the facility will be located, making the water unfit for human consumption. The thing is that we're talking about 3,000 acres to be contaminated. There is indication that it takes 500 years for this to migrate, but there are sand seams in that particular area; it's not all clay. I want the minister to know this before any decision is made.

It is unacceptable to me and the people of Lincoln why your ministry plans to proceed with the OWMC proposal in light of this disturbing evidence.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I know that this member's interest and concern about the proposal for a toxic waste facility goes back to the days when the party on that side was proposing it and when the party on this side was continuing with it, and he has certainly expressed his concern to me on very many occasions.

As the member knows, consideration of the facility is currently, and has been for these many months, the subject of a Consolidated Hearings Board hearing, and therefore it would be inappropriate for me to comment or to say anything that might prejudice the outcome of that hearing.

I want to say to the member that I certainly share his concern and dismay his community feels at the evidence that was presented this week. I look forward to the conclusion of that hearing and I'm quite sure that the evidence will be taken into account by the board.

Mr Hansen: The minister recently announced that disposal now ranks fourth—we use the 3Rs first—and that last among preferred options for dealing with toxic waste chemicals is disposal. This is a good-news item to the people in my riding who have been fighting the Ontario Waste Management Corp proposal.

Will this new evidence about contaminating the groundwater affect the ministry's position regarding the Ontario Waste Management Corp?

Hon Mrs Grier: The member is absolutely right. What I announced earlier this week was a shift in emphasis within my ministry from the traditional react and cure approach to an anticipate and prevent approach, which will lead us towards sustainable development, an approach that puts prevention at the core of the programs of my ministry.

The hierarchy to which the member refers is that in the case of toxic wastes, first, at the top of the hierarchy is preventing the creation of them in the first place; second, one has to recycle them as best one can; third, treat them in a way that nullifies their toxic effects, and finally, disposal. I can assure the member that the ordering of that hierarchy will be taken into account in any decisions that have to be taken with respect to the OWMC.

1430

ONTARIO HYDRO CONTRACT

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): My question is for the Minister of Energy. I want to ask him again a question relating to the Manitoba purchase. That's the agreement between Ontario Hydro and Manitoba whereby Hydro is going to buy 1,000 megawatts of electricity from Manitoba starting in the year 2000.

There's an environmental assessment hearing taking place at the present time considering this issue, among others. Hydro has told us something that's very interesting. They're telling us that based on the information they have today, it's now cheaper to produce this electricity in Ontario than it is for us to buy it from Manitoba. They're also telling us that if we produce the electricity here, it's going to create 19,791 jobs in our province. You will know, Mr Speaker, that the minister has told us on several occasions that we have tremendous potential here for non-utility generation and that we can produce this power here, if needed. Does the minister continue to support the Manitoba purchase?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): As the member well knows, the Manitoba purchase was a contract between Ontario Hydro and Manitoba Hydro that was signed under the previous administration. The question, as the member has said, is now before the Environmental Assessment Board in the DSP hearing. The DSP hearing is looking at all the options for power over the next 25 years so that hopefully, for the first time in the Hydro planning process, we can get some objective, expert advice about how we should proceed in the future. I look forward to seeing the board's report and recommendations on that purchase.

Mr McGuinty: It's most interesting to hear the minister tell us about the objectivity and impartiality of the environmental assessment panel, but it was Ontario Hydro, acting under the direction of this government, that amended the demand-supply plan presently before the environmental assessment hearing, and with one fell swoop this government has deferred nuclear power in this province for 10 years and it has doubled its conservation targets.

I want to quote an Ontario Hydro official at the environmental assessment hearing, who was under cross-examination, in relation to Hydro's change of heart with respect to the cost of this electricity. I don't have the official's name. He said, "We didn't know that we were going to be in this situation in 1989, and you have to make decisions on the best information available at the time that you make them."

We now know it's cheaper to produce this electricity in the province than it is to buy it from Manitoba. We now know that if we produce it here, we're going to create some 19,791 jobs. In addition, we now know that if we cancel the deal today, it's going to cost us \$82 million, but if we wait until the end of the environmental assessment hearing, it's going to cost us over \$200 million. I ask the minister again, does he continue to support the Manitoba purchase?

Hon Mr Charlton: The member across the way, as he does on most occasions, seems to try to deal with issues in isolation. It's impossible to do that in the electrical planning process, as he well knows and understands. That's why this environmental assessment hearing is ongoing at the present time, so that we can look at the appropriate way to have a diverse and flexible energy system in this province in the future.

The member also knows that there are more issues at stake around the Manitoba purchase than just the question

of the electricity. There is also the question of the transmission associated with that electricity, and therefore the availability of access to the system by the very non-utility generation proponents he's talking about. All of those are issues that have to be interrelated and understood by the environmental assessment hearing so that we can hopefully come to some reasonable conclusions about an appropriate system for the future.

AIR QUALITY

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Recent reports indicate that air quality in Ontario's cities is fast becoming unbearable and that in fact Toronto has the worst air quality of six major North American cities of similar size. In a report on air quality the government is quick to point the finger at vehicle emissions as the major source of smog and ozone depletion.

On the heels of Earth Day, I was glad to hear that one of the world's worst air quality offenders, Los Angeles, had found one way to curb smog. It is by buying electric trolley cars, and in fact 400 new trolley cars are being manufactured for Los Angeles by a Winnipeg firm. If Los Angeles can see the benefits of an environment-friendly mode of transportation, one that is clean and efficient, why has your ministry avoided reviewing the environmental benefits of trolleys and not endorsed this transportation mode for Ontario's major cities?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I am happy to tell the member that I do endorse trolleys as an environmentally sound way of providing public transit in cities. I have made those views known to the Toronto Transit Commission, and as I am sure the member is aware, the subsidy payments through my colleague the Minister of Transportation that have been in place in the province for some time assist in the purchase of trolley cars.

Mr Cousens: I am pleased with that, because we have a major problem if we continue to use diesel-, propane- or gasoline-powered machines as methods of transportation. It is so much cleaner to go with electricity and I am pleased you're confirming that is your direction. I guess what we really have to do is something to fight for the issue that faces Toronto in the future. If we can do anything, and you in particular in your important capacity as Minister of the Environment, to help these municipalities go electric, it would be an outstanding move.

Could you tell us what you could do to personally help make sure that Toronto and other municipalities that are looking at options will take very, very seriously the importance of the electric option as being the best one for the long term? What will you do to help make that happen?

Hon Mrs Grier: I think what we can do is make our position very clear to the municipality and we have done that. We have also financed studies in order to assist the municipality and the TTC in doing comparisons of the benefits of trolleys as opposed to other kinds of transportation. But as the member will well know, the decision as to the mode of transit to have within Metropolitan Toronto lies with the responsible agencies within Metropolitan Toronto.

We have made our position clear. As I am sure the member is aware, they have that issue currently under discussion and are inviting public comment. We were pleased to comment.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. People in London and Middlesex are profoundly concerned about the protection of agricultural land in the area identified for annexation in the recent arbitrator's report. Much of this land is class 1, 2 and 3 farm land. It is essential that it be protected. I would like to know how this land will be protected.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I appreciate the question from the member for Middlesex, who has talked to me on a regular basis about the annexation question in London. The first point, which I think the member would understand, and this point was confirmed by Mr Sewell when he was asked to comment about the annexation in London, is that it really doesn't matter whether agricultural land is within a city or within a county. What matters are the planning rules that we have in the province and that's why we have decided under the Sewell commission to redesign the planning process in the Planning Act.

Also, the arbitrator has put provisions in his recommendations that say, not that agricultural land will only be protected for 10 years, as the critic for the Tory party said today, but that agricultural land will be protected through the planning process; that a new official plan will have to be designed and will have to be put together; that agricultural land will be designated and protected, but then, even after a new official plan is designed, if there are any changes after that to agricultural land in addition to that protection, 10 more years of protection exist. That means agricultural land in the new city of London will be better protected than any agricultural land in Ontario.

Mrs Mathysen: You talked about planning as the key to protecting this land. Will that planning requirement extend to the county? Because as you may know, Middlesex farm land is under duress in the county as well as being under duress from the new city annexed area.

Hon Mr Cooke: The specific recommendations in the Brant report in terms of planning and the 10-year protection after any official plan changes would not, of course, apply to the county, but the county will have to abide by any changes the Sewell commission will recommend in terms of the planning process. I'm absolutely convinced that his report and the new planning process will provide substantial protection for agricultural land in Ontario.

1440

POLICE SERVICES

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I have a question for the Solicitor General. In October of last year you made a commitment in this House that you would do something about automatic drivers' licence suspensions for persons convicted of dealing in drugs. Seven weeks later, instead of responding in this House to me, you wrote a letter saying, "I'm sorry; I'm no longer responsible for the anti-drug

secretariat." Since the anti-drug secretariat is now shut down, will you make a commitment in this House, and act to provide our police with the tools necessary to fight drug traffickers, or will you become or be known as the modern-day Pontius Pilate, washing your hands of this problem and doing nothing while Toronto burns?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I would like to refer the question to the Minister of Health, not on the basis of washing my hands of it but putting it where the question properly belongs. I thought the member would have understood that after having been informed on three occasions now.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy): As the member well knows, the responsibility for the anti-drug strategy for Ontario was transferred to the portfolio of the Minister of Health last summer, and I have been working with people in the ministry and the staff who have come over from the anti-drug secretariat to develop a broader, more comprehensive substance abuse program. I can assure the member that in the context of that development work the interministerial capacity of our work continues, and that our work with the Solicitor General's ministry and other ministries around initiatives of enforcement, as it is related to the anti-drug strategy, continues to be an important part of our focus.

Mr Ruprecht: Unfortunately, that was not my question. I'll get to the Minister of Health some other day but today it's the Solicitor General. I ask him or you—it doesn't matter who answers this question—what about automatic drivers' licence suspensions for people dealing in drugs? That was my question. Now to my supplementary—they simply don't understand this.

In the last five years in Metro Toronto, the number of individuals charged with drug-related offences has doubled. The annual police report shows 38,556 violent crimes in 1991, a 9.3% increase; arson in Toronto has soared 28.7%; robberies 18% and sexual assaults 10%. Our Community Against Drugs has now in frustration produced a card—this one here—which simply says that our Toronto neighbourhoods cannot survive another summer of drug trafficking problems.

Mr Solicitor General, will you commit today to come with me on a tour to these struggling communities and experience at first hand how your policies affect our real citizens?

Hon Ms Lankin: The member persists in directing the questions to the wrong minister if he's talking about the anti-drug strategy. He's now talking about policing questions. Since he had started off in that vein, perhaps he could've remained with the Solicitor General.

However, let me say that I do know this member has a genuine interest in this issue and that he has on a number of occasions raised concerns with respect to both the enforcement around drug laws and policing aspects, as well as treatment aspects. It's a broad-ranging interest he has, and I'd be pleased to work with the member to try to continue to address these issues. I want to assure him that the transfer from the Solicitor General to the Ministry of

Health does not mean that we will not continue an enforcement aspect to the strategy, but it does mean we are going to look at major enhancements with respect to treatment.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. It concerns the recently announced improvements to environmental approval systems. In your statement to the Legislature on April 15 you indicated your reforms will fall into four categories: environmental assessment, land use planning reviews, certificates of approval and waste management approvals.

Minister, under the reforms you are proposing, would an existing eight-room rural school in Simcoe county be permitted to double the size of the property and double the size of the septic tank system to accommodate increased enrolment, or do the reforms you are proposing end rural schools in Simcoe county?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I have to say to the member that the announcements I made were strictly administrative and procedural enhancements of the way in which the ministry deals with applications; they were not changes in standards or in policies. But I know the concern he has raised with respect to rural schools and the servicing of those schools is one that is very real and that is felt across the province. I'm happy to be able to tell him that we are aware of that concern and, in conjunction with my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs, are certainly addressing that issue.

Mr McLean: In supplementary, it has been made very clear on different occasions that in some cases there may have to be 100 acres added to the size of the acreage in order to put in the septic systems. I have a copy of a letter, Madam Minister, that you had written to a member. It said, "In many cases, planning can eliminate the need for rural institutions entirely." This is your letter, Madam Minister. We are concerned that rural schools in Ontario will not be able to be expanded. That's really what the question is and it's what the school board members are really wanting to know. If there's an eight-room school, can that school be doubled in size? Can the lot be doubled, the septic tank doubled? Would your ministry approve, providing it meets all the requirements of the environmental assessment?

Hon Mrs Grier: The issue here is the servicing of schools and whether servicing of septic tanks is something that is any longer acceptable for schools, for homes, for shopping centres. We know the problems with contaminated groundwater across this province and we know the problems that municipalities have had in finding the financing to put in communal services.

We realize that is a very real issue. It is an issue that is being looked at by the Sewell commission with respect to land use planning in the province. It's an issue that's being looked at in my ministry with respect to servicing policies. All I can say to the member at this point is that he has a very valid concern, one that is shared by many members of this House and one that is shared by me as the Minister of the Environment.

1450

LEGISLATIVE CHANNEL

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. With the new programming schedule recently foisted upon us by our local cable companies, many of my constituents in York East are now unable to receive the other parliamentary station on the channels available to them on their converters.

In my riding the parliamentary program is available on channel 55, but quite a number of the older converters only range up to channel 39. This has been a concern especially of the seniors in my riding, who cannot afford to upgrade their converters. Although I realize the channel a program will air on is a decision that is made by the CRTC, I would like to ask, Madam Minister, if there is anything our government can do to restore programming to an accessible channel for the majority of our viewers.

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): Actually, thank you very much. I have been approached by other members with this very same question, because it does relate to the access by constituents to the legislative channel and their ability to watch their member in this Legislature.

I am aware of the situation. I have asked the people in my department to talk with the cable company and to check with the CRTC. Unfortunately the CRTC does not have any regulations in place concerning priority or channel location; therefore, Rogers has not violated anything with the CRTC. I have spoken personally to people at Rogers and I have asked that my department look at this situation. Officials at Rogers have indicated they are prepared to attempt to make some low-cost converters available to people who call them.

Mr Malkowski: I find your answer unsatisfactory. The problem with the response is that a lot of people are unaware that if they complain to the cable company they'll be able to receive this low-cost converter. As I have stated, the parliamentary channel should be accessible to all Ontarians. How do you intend to solve this problem?

Hon Mrs Haslam: Those who know me know how tenacious I can be. I'm going to be writing to Ted Rogers, the president of Rogers Communications, which is the parent company of the company we all deal with, Rogers Cable TV. I'm going to tell him how disappointed I am, how I am very upset about this situation. I have spoken personally to people with Rogers. I will ask them to move the legislative channel so it is as close as possible to the federal House of Commons TV service.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. No doubt everyone in this House will be aware that this week is National Consumer Week. The minister has been doing her best to do a good job. I know she's been working hard. She's been working really hard at it to become the champion of consumer causes. But I find it very difficult to stand up and say I support what this minister has done if

she's not willing to bring in consumer protection legislation. How can this minister, who is part of a government that is self-proclaiming with respect to having been granted the support of the people, being a government of the people, stand up and say she is working on behalf of consumers this week and from now on as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if she's not bringing forward consumer protection legislation? After today's budget we're going to find out what she's done for consumers with respect to preventing them from being gouged by the Treasurer with all the tax increases they're going to see, which will further erode consumer confidence.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member complete his question, please.

Mr Cordiano: Can the minister stand up and answer what she's going to do on behalf of consumers after today's budget?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I must say I'm not surprised to hear that my critic across the floor is having trouble standing up and supporting anything I'm doing, given the role of the opposition over there to criticize everything, good or bad. I want to point out that consumer protection is indeed a major priority of mine, and I have had results in many of the things I've been doing.

In terms of the new consumer protection legislation, it continues to be a major priority. I've said before in this House and I'll say again that the draft the Liberal government did was not good enough. The marketplace has changed drastically and continues to change, and there are a number of issues that weren't dealt with adequately or weren't dealt with at all in that, and I'm now in the consulting stages again with the stakeholder groups which were involved at that time. They're very pleased with the process we're engaged in, and we're coming very close to a conclusion. I hope to be coming forth very soon with this new legislation, which will indeed be well improved.

QUESTION PERIOD

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I wanted to point out to the people here that this has been the most interesting, informative and productive question period I have seen since I was elected to these chambers. In your never-ending quest to find ways of bringing order and civility to this Legislature, perhaps you might look around and see what it is that's different that has brought about this occurrence today, and we might try to re-create that on future days.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): On the point of order.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): As much as I would like to indicate that it is nice to have the leader of the New Democrats here in the House, I note again that he is not, although he's just coming back. The other two leaders are not here. Perhaps it has something to do with the generosity of spirit among the private members. They're watching, I know, from the lockup on their monitors from the media.

I must say, though, that I did find, interestingly enough, that there were very good questions very well put, although I note that in terms of length we again have accommodated the usual number of questions, just in case anybody was counting. I do that every day because I run a very big list as we try to organize the day, but I felt today was a very productive day and thank the ministers, obviously, for their responses, given civilly mostly. They may not have been the right answers for all of us, but there has been a bit of a turn and I think this has been a very productive day.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: If I might just say, I think the reason why question period has worked so well today is that Premier Bob has been seconded to the province of Alberta, and is doing a very good job there, I might add.

The Speaker: To the point of order raised by all three members, far be it from me to comment on the reasons why this particular question period went as well as it did. I'm simply grateful for good things when they occur.

JAYNE SUTHERLAND

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Following the rules of the House, I believe my privileges as a member are going to be impacted by the departure of Ms Jayne Sutherland from the service of our PC caucus to the service of the federal government House leader. I feel that in making notation of her departure, all members of this House would wish to convey to Ms Jayne Sutherland our best wishes for success in the federal House and her health and happiness always. She has been an exemplary employee of our caucus and of public service to everyone in this Legislature.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member's point of privilege, indeed, if it may be of some assistance to her, we're about to reach that portion of the proceedings where we have petitions. She may in fact wish to petition someone to stay on for a while.

PETITIONS

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I have a petition. It says:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession"—and this afternoon we'll probably hear more about it;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I'm presenting a petition signed by 133 constituents. It states as follows:

"Whereas we believe that all workers in the province of Ontario should have the right to freely become members of a union; and

"Whereas we believe in the fundamental rights of union members to exercise their right to strike without threat of being replaced by non-union workers during a legal strike situation;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers Local 680"—Port Weller Dry Docks, I might add—"support the proposed reform of the Ontario Labour Relations Act and hereby urge all members of the Legislative Assembly to endorse these changes on behalf of working people across Ontario."

Please give this your utmost consideration. I affix my signature to this.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

That is signed by some 237 people in my area of the province. I too have affixed my name to this petition.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I'm standing to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents of mine who are looking at the economic circumstances of the province and where they think that money could be more appropriately spent—in health and education and not on bilingual signs in the province of Ontario—and that the minister and the Legislature reconsider or look at alternative

plans for spending these funds in converting bilingual signs in the province of Ontario.

RENT REGULATION

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition that I wish to present to the Legislature against Bill 121, the rent control legislation. It's addressed to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all; and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Mr Speaker, I have a further petition. I've affixed my signature to the previous one, sir, as I do to this one. It is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr Hansen from the standing committee on finance and economic affairs presented the committee's report and moved its adoption.

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill 154, An Act to prohibit the Charging of Fees for the Cashing of Government Cheques / Loi interdisant de demander des droits pour l'encaissement de chèques du gouvernement.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, I would ask for unanimous consent to suspend the proceedings until 4 pm.

Agreed to.

The House recessed at 1504.

1600

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET SPEECH
DISCOURS SUR LE BUDGET

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, government notice of motion number 6.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller): Government notice of motion number 6, Mr Laughren.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Mr Speaker, I rise to present the 1992 budget for the province of Ontario.

For this province, the budget is more than just a statement outlining income and spending intentions for the next 12 months. The budget represents an opportunity to bring to life important principles that the people of this province share with one another.

Greater social equity, economic renewal and fair and effective fiscal management go hand in hand. They cannot be separated. In this budget we bring these goals together.

For two years, our province has been in the grip of a recession. Many individuals, businesses—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): If the Treasurer could wait just a moment while the pages distribute. Before proceeding, I'd like to know if any members have not received their copies. With the indulgence of the House, may I say that our pages delivered those copies to you in 12 seconds.

Hon Mr Laughren: In view of the fact that members didn't have their copies when I started, could I move that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

The Speaker: Mr Laughren has moved, seconded by Mr Rae, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government. Does the Treasurer have a few comments to make?

Hon Mr Laughren: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to make a few comments and I thought that I had best start from the beginning, as some members were preoccupied previously.

Mr Speaker, I rise to present the 1992 budget for the province of Ontario.

For this province, the budget is more than just a statement outlining income and spending intentions for the next 12 months. The budget represents an opportunity to bring to life important principles that the people of this province share with one another.

Greater social equity, economic renewal and fair and effective fiscal management go hand in hand. They cannot be separated. In this budget we bring these goals together.

For two years, our province has been in the grip of a recession. Many individuals, businesses and communities have been hurt by forces over which they have no control. Many more are concerned about their future.

In this budget, we reaffirm our government's commitment to the people of this province. We are addressing Ontario's immediate priorities in a way that is consistent with our principles and with a view to the long term.

The people of Ontario want to hear from their government about how we are taking action on their priorities. Their fundamental priorities are clear. The first is jobs. The second is human services, such as health care and education. The third is keeping the deficit in check.

We are responding in this budget. We are taking immediate steps to create jobs, we are maintaining the important public services, and we are controlling the deficit.

Nous prenons des mesures immédiates pour créer des emplois. Nous maintenons des services publics importants. Nous limitons le déficit.

This is not a quick-fix strategy. In the teeth of a tough recession, with massive changes in the global economy, we can best meet the priorities of the people of Ontario by building on the fundamental strengths of the Ontario economy. That is why this government is taking concrete steps to create jobs, train workers, increase business investment and sustain the public services that mark a decent and caring society.

I am sure all Ontarians reacted with pride to the recent news that a United Nations survey ranked Canada as the best place to live in the entire world. Our province, at the heart of Canada, is indeed one of the best places in the world to live, to raise a family and to do business. This government, working with all of our partners, is confident that Ontario will emerge stronger and better from these tough times with a dynamic business sector, a productive workforce and affordable human services.

I have heard from thousands of Ontario citizens over the last few months. In January, this government did something different: We opened our books to show the public the challenges we faced in developing our budget for 1992. We asked Ontarians to let us know their opinions. More than 16,000 people called or wrote to request copies of the pre-budget materials published in January. I received more than 4,300 letters and submissions with advice on the budget. My cabinet colleagues and I met with 225 different groups. Many of my caucus colleagues held public meetings on the budget in their ridings.

I want to thank all the people who gave us ideas and suggestions. The process has shown the value of sharing information and involving Ontarians in decisions that affect them.

The people of Ontario do not expect miracles, but they do want leadership. They want us to take action on their priorities. Above all, they want to see Ontario working. This budget meets Ontario's priorities, and I would like to highlight just how it does that.

We are creating three major funds to support new jobs. First, we are launching, in cooperation with private firms and community groups, the Jobs Ontario training fund. This three-year, \$1.1-billion program will provide jobs and

training for up to 100,000 of Ontario's long-term unemployed.

Second, we are beginning a five-year, \$2.3-billion strategic capital program, the Jobs Ontario capital fund, to prepare our transportation, communications and environmental systems for the 21st century. Approximately 10,000 jobs will be created this year alone in building these lasting assets.

Third, we are expanding our support for non-profit housing by 20,000 units through the Jobs Ontario homes fund, generating some \$2.1 billion in capital activity in the construction industry.

To support Ontario businesses in investing and creating jobs, we are reducing taxes on manufacturing, small business and resource industries. The benefits from this support will be available to more than 200,000 businesses in the province.

To fulfil our commitment to maintaining public services, we have begun the work of restructuring and streamlining programs to provide more effective service to the public and to ensure that public services are both affordable and sustainable.

We are maintaining our universal health care system. By working with the health care community to make the system more effective, we are limiting growth in health care spending to 2% this year, down from an average of more than 11% for the last 10 years.

We are continuing to reform our social assistance program, and we are providing training and jobs to help recipients get back into the workforce.

We are reforming tax grants for seniors to redirect support through tax credits to the lowest-income seniors, who need it the most.

1610

We have brought our deficit down from the unacceptable level we faced in January. In 1992-93, our operating deficit will be \$6 billion, and our total budgetary requirements this year will be \$9.9 billion.

We have found ways to cut our operating expenditure growth by over \$3 billion this fiscal year. Fifteen ministries will actually have a drop in spending in 1992-93.

The overall rate of growth in total spending in this budget is the lowest in 39 years. Not since 1953 has the government of Ontario had a spending increase lower than this year's 4.9%. Excluding social assistance and public debt interest, total spending will grow by only 1.5%—less than the rate of inflation.

We have endeavoured to strike a balance in meeting the priorities of creating jobs, maintaining services and controlling the deficit. To achieve this balanced approach, we have had to raise taxes. We have done so only after putting a tremendous effort into making government more efficient. And although personal income taxes are going up, combined federal-provincial income taxes for individuals earning less than \$53,000 will be no higher in 1993 than they are now as a result of this budget.

This has been a tough year for this government, as well as for many workers and businesses in Ontario. The recession has taken a severe toll on our revenues and it has

increased demand for services, such as social assistance, which support the unemployed.

Let me deal directly with the federal government's role in the Ontario economy and this recession.

The recession has been deepened and lengthened by the federal government's policy of keeping interest rates and the dollar high, and by its imposition of the GST. Coupled with the federal government's free trade agreement, these policies have devastated Ontario's manufacturing jobs. And the federal government has not delivered on the adjustment programs it promised.

Premier Rae asked the federal government in February to participate in a national program to create employment through capital works. They have yet to respond to our offer of cooperation.

As if all that were not enough, the federal government has also backed away from its commitment to Canada's health, post-secondary education and social assistance programs. In this year alone, the federal government's limits on its payments for these important programs will cost Ontario \$4.5 billion—a loss of more than \$1,700 for a family of four in this province.

All the provinces have suffered from the diminished federal role in maintaining this country's human services, such as health care, but almost half the total provincial losses are being borne by Ontario alone.

This government is determined to maintain these programs. I believe Ontarians are willing to support accessible health care, post-secondary education for our students and social assistance for people who are most in need.

Ontario has always been a strong supporter of the federal equalization program, and I continue to believe that Ontarians are willing to share with others in less prosperous regions.

We will pursue aggressively new federal-provincial arrangements that are fair to Ontario, that respect Ontario taxpayers and that preserve the programs that play such an important role in the Canadian standard of living.

And we will shoulder our responsibility to deal with the fiscal pressures that have resulted from federal policies. We will ensure that the people of Ontario do not have to carry an unbearable burden of debt interest costs in the years ahead. We are managing spending better. We are preserving important services by making them more cost-effective. We are maintaining our commitment to fairness. And we are contributing to economic recovery and renewal.

This government took office when the recession was already under way. Throughout our first 18 months, we have been working to reduce the hardship caused by the recession and to increase Ontario's strength as a good place for people to live, work and invest. All of us realize profound changes have happened, and are still happening, to our economy. This budget addresses both immediate and long-term needs to create jobs and secure Ontario's place in the world economy.

The recession has lasted longer and gone deeper than most expected. Although it began as a made-in-Canada recession, it has been lengthened by the slowdown in other economies, particularly the United States.

I am heartened that some signs of an economic recovery have begun to appear. Since the turn of the year we have seen a pickup in the US economy and, more significantly, in Ontario's exports to that very important market. Last year's decline in interest rates and in the value of the Canadian dollar, while smaller than economic circumstances would warrant, have helped set the stage for economic growth this year. Real output is expected to expand by 2.3% in fiscal 1992-93, and by approximately 4% over the medium term as the recovery takes hold. The economy is expected to create over 125,000 jobs by the spring of 1993.

This government cannot control external forces such as interest rates or the pace of recovery in the United States. We can, however, help to secure investment in Ontario's future by redirecting policies towards increasing productivity and encouraging innovation.

The slow pace of economic recovery shows the importance of focusing on the fundamental challenge of economic change.

I do not need to tell the worker who is moving from manual to computerized production about economic change. Nor do I need to explain to the software entrepreneur what it means to look for a steady supply of innovative programmers. They know our economy is changing and that we must all change with it.

By setting our targets and taking concrete action on jobs, training and investment, this government is joining with business and labour to reshape our economy for the 21st century.

I want to turn now to the specific initiatives in this budget. We are determined to help the long-term unemployed. Many need training. Many need child care support so that they can return to work. And all of them want to find good jobs.

To respond, we are creating the Jobs Ontario training fund—an innovative, three-year training and employment program. It will help the long-term unemployed who are social assistance recipients or whose unemployment insurance benefits have run out. It will also benefit employers and provide training opportunities for workers who are now employed.

The Jobs Ontario training fund will provide a one-year training credit of up to \$10,000 to an employer for each eligible unemployed worker hired for a new job. At least half of the training credit must be used to train the new employee, and the rest may be used to train other workers.

We estimate that this \$1.1-billion program will support up to 100,000 jobs over the next three years. It will also help provide training for as many as 80,000 other Ontarians who are already working.

In addition, funding for up to 20,000 subsidized child care spaces will be made available to meet the needs of program participants. Affordable and reliable child care is essential for ensuring that parents with young children, particularly women who are single parents, can participate fully in the workforce. These child care spaces represent an unprecedented 40% expansion of subsidized child care spaces in the province.

The Minister of Skills Development will be launching the Jobs Ontario training fund shortly and will be working

with business, labour and community interests to expand it across the province as soon as possible.

This major new initiative is only part of what this government is doing to support Ontario's workers. We will spend \$930 million on training and adjustment programs this year—an increase of 24% from last year. This is the largest commitment to worker training ever made by a government in this province.

We are also working with business, labour, trainers, educators, aboriginal peoples, community groups and other levels of government to reform our training programs so that we get better value for our training dollar. This summer we will appoint the governing body of the new Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. OTAB will help make training and adjustment programs more responsive to the needs of employers, workers and communities by involving all of them in developing new approaches to training.

1620

Our elementary, secondary and post-secondary institutions will also play a vital role in the training and education of the Ontario workforce of the 1990s and beyond.

We are investing in Ontario's workers in another way by supporting pay equity for women. Pay equity means making sure women get paid fair value for the work they do, and it encourages more women to enter the workforce. Despite current fiscal pressures, our commitment to pay equity remains solid. In 1992-93, the government will spend \$285 million to help implement pay equity.

This government remains committed to its plan to contribute almost \$1 billion annually towards pay equity once it is fully implemented. That's commitment. Investment in people contributes to the skills and potential of our workforce.

Public investment in good roads, safe drinking water, reliable public transit and new schools improves our quality of life and significantly increases productivity and future private investment. This leads, in turn, to more high-quality, well-paying jobs in Ontario when business takes advantage of the benefits of locating and staying in Ontario.

To meet these needs, I am establishing the Jobs Ontario capital fund. The fund will invest \$2.3 billion over the next five years to strengthen Ontario's infrastructure. In 1992-93, \$500 million will be allocated, resulting in nearly 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in the first year alone.

Over the coming years this program will fund projects that support Ontario's transition to a more productive, knowledge-based economy, including: telecommunications projects that provide the basis for future business growth; environmental projects that ensure clean beaches and safe drinking water; new investments to support state-of-the-art upgrades and expansion of public transit; major highways essential to reach export markets and facilitate just-in-time delivery; and construction of new child care spaces to support the Jobs Ontario training fund.

The Jobs Ontario capital fund is in addition to our regular investment in roads, hospitals, schools, homes for the aged and other projects. This year we will spend a total of \$3.9 billion on capital renewal, supporting over 75,000 jobs.

The government is making these investments now to secure more jobs and better jobs for Ontario workers in the 1990s and into the next century.

The government will also take a more innovative approach to capital investment and financing in Ontario. This will include consideration of changes in funding arrangements for schools, hospitals, universities, colleges and municipalities. It will include streamlined approvals and new ways to finance capital investments, such as in the area of transportation.

Over the next few months, we will consult with our transfer partners to restructure our capital financing arrangements, with implementation commencing in 1992-93. The expected impact of these measures is reflected in the medium-term fiscal outlook. With these measures, Ontario will ensure that the long-term nature of capital investment is more accurately recognized, as is the practice in other jurisdictions. Legislation necessary to implement this approach will be introduced. Later this year I will make a separate annual report to the Legislature on the province's capital budget and investments.

We are also moving in this budget to create jobs in the construction industry and meet the need for affordable housing.

I am announcing today the Jobs Ontario homes fund, with a commitment to support 20,000 new non-profit housing units. These homes will be allocated over three years and are in addition to the 10,000 non-profit homes that were provided in last year's budget.

Building these 20,000 homes will generate some \$2.1 billion in work for the construction industry, a clear example of how we can create jobs and also meet important community needs.

Let me sum up the impact of these major budget initiatives. They will support jobs that provide training in new skills under the Jobs Ontario training fund; jobs in building strategic capital for the future under the Jobs Ontario capital fund; jobs in constructing and renewing our basic capital infrastructure; and jobs in building affordable housing under the Jobs Ontario homes fund. Together these initiatives will create or support 90,000 jobs for Ontario workers in 1992-93, and an even greater number next year. Scores of communities and thousands of businesses across the province will share in the benefits. These initiatives demonstrate this government's commitment to jobs.

We also know that private investment is the key to the creation of secure jobs in Ontario. Business investment brings with it new and improved technology and better ways of organizing production. This is the basis for improving our competitive position in the global economy. For investment to be effective and profitable in the new economy, it requires a highly skilled labour force, a stable and secure social system and first-rate transportation and communications facilities.

Ontario ranks with the best in the world in meeting these needs. But they cannot be taken for granted. We are undertaking important measures in this budget to maintain and build on these strengths. I am introducing tax measures that will encourage investment and promote restructuring and will make Ontario an even better place to do business.

For most types of business, Ontario's corporate tax system is competitive with other jurisdictions when payroll taxes and employer-paid health care costs are considered. Yet we cannot be satisfied with our past successes in attracting investment. Strategic investment in plant and equipment and new technologies are vital to Ontario's economic renewal.

In this budget, we are taking concrete steps to foster private sector investment and innovation and help create jobs.

Ontario's corporate tax rate on manufacturing and processing profits, as well as farming, mining, logging and fishing profits, will be reduced from 14.5% to 13.5%.

Ontario will increase the capital cost allowance rate from 25% to 35% for new investment in manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment.

To help modernize the transportation industry, Ontario will increase capital cost allowance rates on large trucks and tractors as well as railway cars and specified equipment.

Ontario will broaden eligibility under the research and development superallowance to increase research and development in the province.

Ontario will enrich its labour-sponsored venture capital corporation legislation by increasing the maximum annual investment limit to \$5,000 and maximum firm size to \$50 million in assets.

Together these measures will provide over \$90 million in support to investment on a full-year basis. These tax adjustments will benefit businesses, large and small, across Ontario.

We are also providing additional support for small business.

We will reduce the corporate income tax rate for small business from 10% to 9.5%. This rate reduction is effective midnight tonight and will provide small business with \$20 million in tax assistance this year alone.

We will reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses by allowing them to pay the employer health tax in one annual instalment instead of four times a year.

We will complement the small business financing program announced in the federal budget.

This government will place a new emphasis on working with industry sectors to address common challenges and improve the prospects for investment.

In today's economy, both competition and cooperation among firms contribute to strong economic performance. Competition is an important driver of innovation. Through cooperation, firms in a sector can accomplish projects that an individual company would not undertake. The benefits from this cooperation can be shared by all firms, enabling them to move to higher value added activities.

1630

My colleagues are already working with many important industries to strengthen Ontario's competitive fundamentals, and we intend to expand these efforts. We are allocating \$150 million over three years for the creation and operation of a sectoral partnership fund. Assistance will be available to cooperative projects in an industrial sector that lead to higher value added activities. Projects will emerge from consultations between the government

and representatives of business, labour and other parties critical to the success of a sector. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology will provide further details.

As members of this Legislature will know, Ontario is a large and diverse province with unique communities and regions. Economic development strategies must include a recognition of local strengths and needs. The people who live and work in these communities know their areas best and must be involved in developing new economic solutions. We are working with local leaders to plan for economic renewal at the community level.

Over the past year a number of communities in northern Ontario have had to face the harsh realities of recession and restructuring. The government has been there to help. Through the northern Ontario heritage fund we will provide \$30 million to strengthen and diversify the northern Ontario economy this year. This will bring the government's total contributions to the fund to date to \$165 million.

In Kapuskasing the government worked successfully with the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co, its workers, a new investor, the community and Ontario Hydro to bring in new ownership and a mill modernization program. The Ontario investment and worker ownership program helped bring about this new partnership.

In Elliot Lake and the surrounding area we are assisting the transition to a more diversified economy through a special \$65-million Ontario Hydro package.

In Sault Ste Marie, Algoma Steel, the United Steelworkers and lenders have concluded a historic agreement to restructure steelmaking operations and ensure that Algoma continues to generate jobs and income for the community through a revitalized worker-owned company.

To assist forestry-dependent communities, Ontario has been working closely with the industry and the federal government to overturn the latest efforts by the United States to impose an import duty on softwood lumber. The government has also been working with the industry to launch a European lumber marketing venture that will help diversify markets, increase value added and improve the industry's longer-term viability.

Supporting the development of mining communities is a priority for the government. This summer the Ontario geological survey will be moving its headquarters to Sudbury. This will enhance Sudbury's role as a centre of mining development and expertise.

Ontario has accumulated a large and valuable store of information on its geological resources which is key to continuing mineral exploration efforts. A total of \$11 million will be allocated over the next three years to computerize the geoscience records and maps of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. This will help to encourage and improve the effectiveness of exploration in the province. The government will also be working with the mining industry in northern communities over the next few months to review incentives for mineral exploration and development.

In our rural communities, agriculture is the mainstay. The government has been working with the farming community to bring long-term stability to this sector. Through

the new commodity loan guarantee program we are providing farmers with low-interest working capital. Ontario farmers are expected to benefit from \$50 million or more in operating loans from this program in 1992-93. The Minister of Agriculture and Food is continuing to work with the farming community on other innovative solutions to address the need for long-term financing.

At the same time we are working with the federal government to preserve the benefits of the supply management system under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Supply management offers farmers a measure of stability in the face of international subsidy wars. And we are continuing to work with the food processing industry to support innovation and productivity enhancements that will ensure a steady demand for Ontario's farm products.

While provincial and federal efforts to reduce tobacco consumption are generating significant public health benefits, a substantial burden of adjustment is falling on Ontario's tobacco farmers. An earlier adjustment assistance program, cost-shared with the federal government, successfully helped farmers to get out of tobacco production. The province will continue these efforts and will seek federal participation in this initiative.

Ontario is home to a horse breeding and racing industry that provides a substantial number of jobs and other economic benefits. The Ontario Racing Commission will be working to strengthen the industry by expanding simulcasting and allowing teletheatres. In addition to the benefits provided to the horse racing industry, the government will realize over \$10 million this year through these measures.

Many communities, especially those in border areas, have expressed interest in expanding gambling as a way of promoting tourism. The government will establish casinos by working with interested communities and consulting with charitable and other organizations. In addition to the tourism and employment benefits, this measure will provide the province with new revenues.

We are working with the federal government to implement its offer to collect provincial tobacco taxes and alcohol levies at border crossing points. Collection of these charges will reduce tax-based differences in price between products sold domestically and those brought in from the United States.

Recently the Chair of Management Board of Cabinet announced a program to move government operations to many communities across the province. Among those to benefit will be St Catharines, whose economy has been rocked by major plant closures. A total of 1,400 jobs will be moved to that city. Other communities benefiting from the program include Windsor, Chatham, Brantford, Niagara Falls, Guelph, Orillia, Peterborough, Kingston, Elliot Lake and Haileybury.

In total, over 5,000 jobs will be involved in the moves over the next five years. These moves will diversify the economic base of many communities.

I have spoken at length about jobs, the first priority of Ontarians. I turn now to two other priorities addressed in this budget: maintaining services and keeping the deficit in check.

The people of Ontario want us to preserve important human services such as health care. But they also want government to control its costs.

This fiscal year we have reduced the growth in provincial operating expenditures by over \$3 billion. In the face of lower-than-expected revenues, our operating spending this year will be \$50.9 billion—\$800 million lower than the target we set for ourselves a year ago, despite the demand for services caused by the recession. We are holding the increase in total spending to 4.9%, yet we are still meeting the priorities of Ontario citizens.

The \$3-billion reduction in expenditure growth has been achieved through a number of measures, including internal government efficiencies, limits on transfer payments and major program restructuring.

In January a \$160-million transition fund was provided to help hospitals, schools, colleges and universities restructure and reform their public services. In doing so, we will also preserve services and minimize job losses. Ministers are working with representatives from these sectors, including employers, employees and their representatives, clients and their communities, to make services more cost-effective and efficient. Similarly other transfer partners such as municipalities and community agencies are also working with their ministers to develop strategies aimed at making their services both affordable and more effective.

The government has also provided leadership in the area of labour relations by negotiating a settlement with its employees' union that responds to the need for cooperation and restraint. The government is encouraged by public sector unions and employers who have recognized the difficult economic times and who have responded with balanced, creative and affordable settlements. Maintaining services and preserving jobs will require a continuing commitment to achieving innovative and affordable settlements through the collective bargaining process.

One thing that came through loud and clear in our pre-budget consultations is that people want politicians and public officials to tighten their belts the same as other people across the province have had to do. We have heard the message to control our own spending, and we are responding.

1640

Salaries of cabinet ministers and MPPs are frozen for the second year in a row. Salaries of the 3,900 most senior managers in the government are also frozen for 1992. The government and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union have negotiated a creative agreement which includes a wage increase of 1% in 1992 for government employees. Non-salary overhead costs for all ministries are being cut by 10% this year, saving about \$200 million. This includes reductions in spending on items such as consulting services, supplies, equipment and travel. Ministry spending on communications is also being cut by 10%.

In both public and private sectors, front-line workers are being empowered and organizations are being streamlined. We will be reducing the size of the public service by at least 2,500 from its 1992-93 level over the next two years through attrition, early retirement incentives and redeployment.

To help meet the challenge to do things better and smarter the government will appoint a small group of people from outside government to advise on innovative ways to restructure the public service to improve efficiency, accountability and the quality of service.

Difficult fiscal times also call for flexibility and options that allow employees greater choice when it comes to the balance between work and home. Ontario public service employees who wish to take unpaid leave of up to two weeks will be encouraged to do so where this saves money and does not jeopardize services. The Chair of Management Board will announce further details of these plans.

Ontarians are fiercely proud of our universal and accessible public health care system, but maintaining the quality of Ontario's health care system while reducing rapid expenditure growth is essential to preserving medicare. Total health care costs have increased at an average annual rate of 11.2% over the past 10 years. This high level of growth is simply not sustainable.

Since the tabling of the 1991 supplementary budget paper *Managing Health Care Funding* the Minister of Health has made significant progress in cooperation with our many health sector partners to manage health spending. Because of this cooperation we are able to hold the increase in total health care spending to 2% this year.

The Minister of Health and the people she works with deserve an enormous amount of credit for her efforts.

We will implement new measures within OHIP to achieve additional savings in 1992-93. For example, the government will consult with the Ontario Medical Association on tightening billing criteria to ensure that the services provided to the people of Ontario are of real medical benefit.

The ministry will also reform the Ontario drug benefit plan. Guidelines will be established for prescribing drugs under this program.

Important reforms have been undertaken in the hospital sector. The reforms will develop new and better ways of allocating resources to maintain hospital services while moderating the overall expenditure growth rate. These reforms are being coupled with an emphasis on providing long-term care and community-based services.

This government has placed a high priority on putting services for seniors on a solid footing for the years to come. Last year we announced a \$647-million program to reform the long-term care system for the elderly and for persons with disabilities. This program will expand health and support services, with an emphasis on providing services at home. Despite the financial pressures we face this year we are providing an additional \$100 million this year to move ahead with these absolutely essential reforms.

We are also reforming property and sales tax support for seniors. The existing seniors tax grants program will be replaced with refundable property and sales tax credits, which seniors will receive each spring when they complete their income tax returns.

The new tax credits are designed to provide higher benefits to low-income seniors. Over 350,000 senior households will receive increased benefits. For senior households with incomes under \$23,000, average benefits

will increase by \$135 per household. Most senior households with incomes between \$23,000 and \$40,000 will also receive benefits under the new program, but at a lower level than under the current program.

Reforms to this program will result in savings of about \$100 million per year, primarily by ending benefits to most senior households with incomes over \$50,000.

Seniors will receive their full tax credits for 1992 when they file their 1992 income tax returns next spring. To assist with the transition to this new program, seniors will also receive tax grants under the existing program in 1992.

More than one million people in Ontario now rely on social assistance. Expenditure on social assistance in this province has more than doubled in just three years, growing from \$2.6 billion in 1989-90 to an estimated \$6.2 billion in 1992-93.

We must continue to remove the barriers that prevent many social assistance recipients from moving into the workforce. A major objective of the Jobs Ontario training fund is to ensure that people who were employed until the recent downturn and who now find themselves on social assistance can regain their independence and upgrade their skills. We expect the Jobs Ontario training fund to reduce the need for social assistance over the next three years.

To maintain our commitment to a fair social assistance system and to respond to those most in need, the system must achieve greater efficiencies. Limited resources must be used in the most efficient way possible. The Minister of Community and Social Services will provide further details on a number of measures to increase the efficiency of the existing system.

These include: improving information technology to enhance the responsiveness of the system, reduce paperwork and improve program and policy planning; providing greater assistance to recipients to gain access to other sources of income to which they are entitled, such as Canada pension plan and child support systems; improving mechanisms for the prevention, detection and recovery of overpayments and fraud, including the greater use of direct deposit of benefits; and improving the effectiveness of the supports to employment program, which is designed to provide incentives to employment and remove barriers that prevent social assistance recipients from finding jobs.

These measures will be implemented within the government's continued commitment to the reform of social assistance.

Total savings to social assistance from these new measures will exceed \$300 million in 1992-93, with additional savings expected in future years.

We are taking important steps in this budget to manage our health and social services more efficiently, but these cannot completely replace the revenue loss due to the recession and restraint on federal transfers. For every dollar in new taxes this year, we have found \$4 in costs that we are avoiding through better management of government programs.

We are raising taxes in a way that shares the tax burden fairly. It is vital that the costs of public services be shared as fairly as possible among all of the people of Ontario.

As part of our commitment to providing broad public access to the budget process, we have ensured that the working groups of the Fair Tax Commission represent a diversity of communities and interests. In making my decisions on tax matters, I will continue to consider the analysis and options identified in the working group reports, and I appreciate the perspectives they provide.

We are increasing the Ontario personal income tax rate to 54.5% of basic federal tax for 1992 and to 55% per cent of basic federal tax in 1993 and subsequent years. While this is not an easy decision, the personal income tax is Ontario's fairest revenue source; more than any other tax, it is based on ability to pay.

1650

To improve the fairness of the personal income tax system, we are reforming the Ontario surtax. At present the surtax is paid only by individuals with incomes above \$84,000 a year. Beginning in July 1992, individuals earning more than \$53,000 will pay a surtax at a rate of 14%. In 1993, the surtax rate for individuals with earnings above \$69,000 will increase to 20%. In total, these personal income tax measures will raise \$660 million in 1992-93.

These measures will ensure that tax increases are not borne by those with low or moderate incomes. Combined federal-Ontario personal income taxes for individuals earning less than \$53,000 will be no higher in 1993 than they are now, as a result of this budget.

Perhaps I should remind members that at incomes over \$53,000, that represents 10% of Ontario taxpayers; 90% of the taxpayers in this province will not be affected by the surtax whatsoever. I really do want to put in perspective that for a married couple with two children earning \$60,000 a year, it will represent extra taxes of about \$1 a week. I don't think that's too much to maintain essential services in this province.

It is also important that profitable corporations contribute to public services in a fair way. The Fair Tax Commission's working group on a corporate minimum tax estimated that in 1989 about 6,700 corporations reported book profits but paid little or no Ontario income tax.

This government recognizes that there are legitimate reasons why profits reported for accounting purposes may be higher than income reported for tax purposes. For example, companies are allowed to deduct dividends received from other corporations for tax purposes to avoid possible double taxation. In addition, the tax system allows companies to offset losses incurred in other years against income in the current year. This moderates the impact of the economic cycle on corporations. The government believes that these provisions of the tax system are fair and appropriate.

In recognition of the complexity of this issue and in response to the recommendations of the Fair Tax Commission working group for further analysis, I will be releasing a technical paper this fall. Following the release of the paper, the government will consult on its recommendations before legislation is introduced.

The technical paper will build on the work of the Fair Tax Commission working group in identifying an appropriate corporate minimum tax for Ontario. The design of

the corporate minimum tax will be governed by the following principles: intercorporate dividends and equity income would be excluded in order to avoid double taxation; loss carryovers would be allowed; the corporate minimum tax would be sensitive to concerns regarding retroactive taxation; a carryover mechanism would ensure that any corporate minimum tax paid is creditable against regular income tax liability, and small businesses would be exempt in order to avoid increasing their compliance costs.

How Ontario's corporate tax burden compares with other jurisdictions will obviously be a factor in this government's approach as well. In this respect, it is worth repeating that Ontario's corporate tax system is competitive. It is clear, for example, that Ontario's payroll taxes compare favourably with competing jurisdictions. It is also worth recalling that the United States has a federal corporate minimum tax.

While corporate profits in Ontario have declined significantly throughout this recession, the banking industry as a whole has increased its profit level. Although banks already pay a significant amount of tax to the Ontario treasury, we are asking banks to contribute further since they are better able to sustain a tax increase at this time. Therefore we are imposing a temporary income tax of 10% that will automatically sunset on October 1, 1993.

We are increasing the capital tax rate on banks from 1% to 1.12%. In addition, an offsetting adjustment will be made to the capital tax base of bank mortgage subsidiaries to improve the fairness of the corporate tax system.

As noted in the recent federal budget, income tax revenues from the life insurance industry remain low despite the industry's high profits. As a result, the federal government is reviewing the taxation of life insurance companies with the industry, to ensure that they pay their fair share of federal tax. In consultation with the federal government, Ontario will also introduce legislation to ensure that life insurance companies pay their fair share of Ontario tax.

These measures are expected to raise \$40 million on a full-year basis, and a lower amount after the temporary surtax is sunsetted in 1993.

While all employers pay employer health tax on behalf of their employees, self-employed individuals do not pay this tax on their own earnings. This inequity in the current law will be remedied.

Effective January 1, 1993, individuals earning more than \$40,000 net self-employment income annually will be required to pay the employer health tax. This measure will generate \$45 million on a full-year basis.

Every year the government receives many complaints about sales of used vehicles. For example, some buyers have had their vehicles repossessed because the seller failed to disclose outstanding liens.

To provide consumers with better information, sellers will be required to purchase a vehicle transfer package in order to conduct a private sale. This package will contain a vehicle description and history, including any liens, a fair market value of the vehicle based on an average wholesale price and other consumer information. This information package must be made available to the prospective buyer before ownership is transferred. This package will be re-

quired starting April 1, 1993, and will cost \$20, raising \$13 million in a full year.

As well, the government does not always receive the appropriate retail sales tax due on transfer of used vehicles. This is not fair to those who pay the full amount. Effective October 1, 1992, I am proposing to change the retail sales tax treatment of these transactions to ensure that the appropriate tax is paid. I expect this measure to increase sales tax revenues by \$35 million in 1992-93, and \$95 million in a full year.

This government is committed to the 3Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle. In support of the Minister of the Environment's waste management initiatives, I am expanding the environmental levy to apply to all non-refillable beverage alcohol containers, including beer cans. In addition, effective May 25, 1992, the levy will be increased to 10 cents per container.

Also effective May 25, the volume levy on beer will be increased by five cents. These changes will increase the price of 24 bottles of beer by 50 cents. The price of 24 cans will increase by \$3.10. Together these changes will raise \$85 million in 1992-93.

I want to bring the Legislature up to date on our fiscal situation and on our targets for the years ahead. 1991-92 proved to be a more difficult year than anticipated for working people, for businesses and for government. The recession was deeper and lasted longer than predicted.

While revenues were forecast to decline by 1% in the 1991 budget, preliminary results indicate they actually declined by 4.8%. The province faced almost \$700 million in increased costs, including additional social assistance case loads due to the recession.

1700

To meet these challenges, the government implemented reductions to ministry operating budgets as well as to specific operating and capital programs. As a result of these measures, total expenditures in 1991-92 were held \$470 million below the original budget level. Despite all attempts by the government to meet our original \$9.7-billion deficit target, the revenue shortfall was simply too substantial. The 1991-92 budgetary requirements will be \$10.9 billion.

For 1992-93, provincial revenues will total \$44.9 billion, which is \$2.3 billion less than we had originally planned a year ago. This reflects the severe and adverse impact of the recession on provincial revenues.

To meet this revenue shortfall while maintaining public services, vigorous efforts to control costs will be essential. As a result of the measures announced in this budget, total capital and operating spending will be held to \$54.8 billion in 1992-93, which is \$1.3 billion below the target we set a year ago. This represents a 4.9% over last year's spending.

Ontario's operating deficit for 1992-93 will be \$6 billion. Adding in capital spending of \$3.9 billion, our budgetary requirements will be \$9.9 billion. Despite continuing fiscal pressures, this level is \$1 billion below that of last fiscal year.

As in last year's document, I am presenting a medium-term fiscal outlook extending to 1995-96.

We remain committed to the fiscal goals stated in the 1991 budget: to reduce the operating deficit steadily as the economy recovers; to reduce the operating deficit as a proportion of the gross domestic product and total revenue; to reduce the rate of expenditure growth, and to stabilize our debt servicing costs.

This year's medium-term fiscal outlook reflects the changes that I said earlier will be made to the province's capital financing arrangements. The outlook shows how we intend to work towards balancing the operating deficit by 1997 as we promised last year.

The operating deficit will decrease from \$6 billion in 1992-93 to \$1.9 billion in 1995-96. Taking into account capital expenditures, the government's budgetary requirements are projected to decrease from \$9.9 billion in 1992-93 to \$4.1 billion in 1995-96.

The real test of this outlook will be the commitment of the government to manage its expenditures. Revenue growth is largely linked to economic activity, but stronger economic growth alone will not eliminate the deficit.

Critics will call for more rapid declines in the deficit and I share that wish. But the government refuses to publish targets that could not be met without introducing extreme tax measures or arbitrary and disruptive cuts to vital public services. This outlook takes into account the severity of the recession and federal offloading, and it reflects the time needed to restructure our economy and our public services.

In conclusion, on the surface, budgets deal with dollars and cents—economic forecasts and fiscal statements. But they are really about people.

This budget is about putting the men and women of Ontario back to work—supporting some 90,000 jobs in 1992-93.

It is about people who have been out of work for a long time—assisting up to 100,000 of them with jobs and training over the next three years.

Le présent budget veut donner la possibilité aux hommes et aux femmes de l'Ontario de retourner sur le marché du travail. Ce budget vise les personnes qui sont sans emploi depuis longtemps, en favorisant la formation et la création d'emplois pour environ 100 000 d'entre elles au cours des trois prochaines années.

It is about people who need affordable housing—providing support for 20,000 new non-profit housing units and generating \$2.1 billion in work for the construction industry in the years ahead.

This budget is about the people who build our communities and the capital works that form the foundation of our prosperity—investing \$3.9 billion in these lasting assets.

It is about people who live in the north, who rely on our natural resource industries—about ensuring the communities not only survive but prosper in the future.

It is about farmers—and maintaining the stability of our rural communities.

It is about the people who run businesses in Ontario—and supporting them in the innovations and investments that will help shape our future.

It is about all the people who provide and use the many important services that our taxes pay for—sustaining those services and finding new ways to manage programs better.

Under the strong and committed leadership of Premier Bob Rae, my colleagues and I formed a government 18 months ago with an agenda to serve people and to lead them. We have been tested by the forces of global change and domestic uncertainty. Yet we remain proud of our heritage and we stand firm in our willingness to extend the hand of partnership to all of those who seek to build on Ontario's great strengths.

We have made this a budget for Ontario and for all of the people who have made Ontario strong and who seek to build a better future for their children and their grandchildren. Let us go forward to build the Ontario that we want our grandchildren to inherit—a strong and productive province within a united and prosperous Canada.

The Speaker: I take it the Treasurer has concluded his remarks. The member for Bruce.

On motion by Mr Elston, the debate was adjourned.

ESTIMATES

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): As promised yesterday afternoon, to table the estimates, I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, signed by his own hand.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending 31 March 1993 and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): If I might have unanimous consent to revert to introduction of bills.

Agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO LOAN ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LES EMPRUNTS DE L'ONTARIO

Mr Laughren moved first reading of Bill 16, An Act to authorize borrowing on the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund / Loi autorisant les emprunts garantis par le Trésor.

Motion agreed to.

On motion by Mr Cooke, the House adjourned at 1709.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Sillpo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Wininger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LEGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaitre, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan, Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola, Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget, W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini, Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

CONTENTS

Thursday 30 April 1992

Private members' public business			
Fiscal and economic policy,			
resolution 7	455	Office of the Ombudsman	473
Mr Carr	455	Ms Poole	
Ms Murdock	456	The Speaker	
Mrs Caplan	457	Ms Lankin	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	458	Jayne Sutherland	473
Mr Waters	460	Mr Eves	
Mr Bradley	461	Mr Cooke	
Mr Kormos	462	Mr Elston	
Mr Carr	462		
Negatived	470	Oral questions	
Human Rights Code Amendment		Teachers' dispute	474
Act, 1992, Bill 15	463	Mrs O'Neill	
Mr Winninger	463	Mr Silipo	
Mrs Caplan	464	Municipal boundaries	475
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	465	Mr Eddy	
Mr Mills	467	Mr Cooke	
Mr Eddy	467	Mr Grandmaitre	
Mr Drainville	468	Budget security	476
Ms Harrington	469	Mr Stockwell	
Mrs MacKinnon	469	Mr Cooke	
Mr Winninger	470	Ontario Training and Adjustment	
Second reading agreed to	470	Board	477
		Mrs Cunningham	
		Mr Allen	
		Health services	477
		Mr McClelland	
		Ms Lankin	
		Mr O'Neil	
		Mental health services	478
		Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	
		Ms Lankin	
		Waste disposal	479
		Mr Hansen	
		Mrs Grier	
		Ontario Hydro contract	479
		Mr McGuinty	
		Mr Charlton	
		Air quality	480
		Mr Cousens	
		Mrs Grier	
		Agricultural land	481
		Mrs Mathysen	
		Mr Cooke	
		Police services	481
		Mr Ruprecht	
		Ms Lankin	
		Environmental approvals	482
		Mr McLean	
		Mrs Grier	
		Legislative channel	482
		Mr Malkowski	
		Mrs Haslam	
		Consumer protection	482
		Mr Cordiano	
		Ms Churley	
		Question period	483
		Ms Lankin	
		Mr Elston	
		Mr Eves	
		Jayne Sutherland	483
		Mrs Marland	
		Petitions	
		French-language services	483
		Mr McLean	
		Labour legislation	484
		Ms Haec	
		French-language services	484
		Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	
		Mr Hope	
		Rent regulation	484
		Mr Tilson	
		Revenue from gaming	484
		Mr Tilson	
		Reports by committees	
		Standing committee on finance	
		and economic affairs	484
		Mr Hansen	
		Adopted	484
		Business of the House	485
		Mr Cooke	
		Budget speech	485
		Mr Laughren	
		Debate adjourned	493
		Estimates	493
		Mr Laughren	
		First readings	
		Ontario Loan Act, 1992, Bill 16	493
		Mr Laughren	
		Agreed to	493

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

Le jeudi 30 avril 1992

Discours sur le budget	485
M. Laughren	

Première lecture

Loi de 1992 sur les emprunts de	
l'Ontario, projet de loi 16	493



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 4 May 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 4 mai 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

Index inquiries

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 4 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): Farmers across the province are facing one of the most difficult springs in their history. Not only are commodity prices staying at Depression levels, but the uncertainty of the GATT negotiations makes it hard for even the most optimistic farmers to plan for the future. Farmers have had to face this uncertain future with the added burden of the Minister of Agriculture and Food's warning that there would be no additional assistance because "the province's cupboard was bare."

Last week the Minister of Agriculture and Food's budget predictions came true. The ministry's total capital and operating budget was slashed by \$40 million over last year, a reduction of more than 6%. There will be some new program announcements from the minister over the next few weeks, no doubt, but they will be pared down from last year's levels. The bottom line is that farmers will be getting less help this year.

But farmers are wondering why the cupboard is bare for agriculture when the budget for Management Board of Cabinet went up by \$30 million. Is this increase for the extra civil servants required to cut the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's funding? Farmers are wondering why the cupboard is bare for agriculture when the Attorney General's budget went up by \$42 million. Is this to pay for the extra civil servants required to file farm bankruptcies? Farmers are wondering why the cupboard is bare for agriculture when the Ministry of Housing's budget increased by \$200 million. Is this to make sure there is non-profit housing available—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Brant-Haldimand, unfortunately your time has expired.

TVONTARIO

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): This is Education Week here in Ontario, and today I would like to draw the attention of this Legislature to the role played by TVOntario, our province's educational broadcaster. In particular, I would like to point out TVO's literacy programming.

I would also like to point out another aspect of TVO, that of broadcasting question period and ensuring that all Ontarians have access to TVOntario programs. I've been surprised by how many people watch question period, but these same people constantly tell me that the question period rebroadcast should be on at an earlier time. In my area, 12:30 to 1:30 in the morning is not acceptable.

TVO continues to serve our youth through new programs which encourage literacy. I know that TVO has been active in promoting literacy, and we all certainly agree with that.

This year TVOntario has produced Reading Rap for elementary school children who are reluctant readers. This program offers tips on how to choose a book, make sense of text and visualize a story. For younger children, Bookmice also celebrates the wonder of books. TVOntario has also produced Let's Read Together to help parents encourage their children to read well.

I strongly believe that TVOntario was created to bring educational programming to all of Ontario. I am just disappointed that many communities, such as Cornwall, do not receive TVOntario. If this government has money to give to the Canadian Auto Workers to teach union songs, then surely we can provide TVO with sufficient money to bring the program to areas like Cornwall.

JAMAICAN MAROONS

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I'm very proud to welcome to our Legislature today a delegation from Jamaica's Accompong Town maroon community. They are truly remarkable people.

The maroons are the descendants of African slaves who, in the words of historian Richard Hart, "set themselves free." They were victorious in their struggle against slavery, and a historic treaty was signed in 1739. It recognized the completely independent status of the maroons, but not without hostility. The rebellious Jamaican maroons were sentenced to exile in Canada. Today the descendants of these brave individuals make up Nova Scotia's black community. The delegation has made Toronto just one of its stops across the country to share its history and culture.

Honourable members, please welcome the maroon delegates, headed by Colonel Martin Luther Wright, sitting in the east members' gallery.

I would also like to thank the Jane-Finch Concerned Citizens' Organization, a non-profit organization in my riding of Yorkview, for sponsoring the maroon delegation.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): In last Thursday's budget, a \$10-million cut to the Ontario student assistance program was announced. The government now expects students receiving OSAP to make a greater contribution through summer employment.

That this government penalizes students by reducing OSAP payments is perplexing, to say the least. In the Premier's address on January 21, in the throne speech on May 6 and again in the budget, the government said that education and training are crucial as we strive to compete in an internationally challenging economy. Surely these promises must mean increased accessibility and affordability for all qualified students. That the NDP government has instead chosen to reduce accessibility to post-secondary education raises major questions about its commitment to higher education today so we can compete effectively tomorrow.

The search for summer jobs has always been a difficult one, but this year, in a time of recession, students will be competing not only with other students; they will compete with an unprecedented number of unemployed. How are these students expected to contribute more if they cannot even find jobs?

This afternoon in the standing committee on social development, members of the Legislature will have an opportunity to hear about the full impact of all these OSAP changes on students in this province.

1340

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Today marks the beginning of Motorcycle Awareness Month. This year's theme is Ride Aware: Drive with Care.

In Ontario there are more than 120,000 registered motorcycle vehicles, but many car drivers still have not adjusted to sharing the road with motorcycles or mopeds. Research from the Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council shows that more than 75% of motorcycle accidents involved collision with another vehicle, usually a passenger automobile. In 66% of all such cases, the driver of the other vehicle violated the motorcycle's right of way and caused the accident.

The most frequent type of accident is the car turning left in front of the motorcyclist at an intersection. How many car drivers are guilty of not seeing a motorcycle at an intersection? Better highway safety between car and motorcycle is the key. Motorcyclists and motorists need to mix in traffic without causing harm to each other. To do so, car drivers must better understand more about motorcycles and why riders do some of the things they do. For example, minor road hazards like potholes and railroad tracks are easy to overcome in cars, but a motorcycle must change lanes, sometimes suddenly, to avert a pothole.

Motorcycle Awareness Month is designed to make drivers of all vehicles realize that the road must be shared. Good driving benefits motorcycles, cars, bicycles and pedestrians. So today let's all remember this: that we are really interested in being aware. Drive with care.

LARRY O'ROURKE

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Two weeks ago the city of Chatham lost a little bit of history. Alderman Larry O'Rourke, an elder statesman, died at the age of 56 after a lengthy illness. His death came just months after winning his seventh straight municipal election. Although I had occasion to disagree with Mr O'Rourke, I know that I and the rest of Chatham will remember him as a fighter.

He wasn't a partisan politician, ready to forecast doom and gloom and point the finger. Instead, he offered solutions and worked for change. Ironically, during his last election he spoke of recovery. He predicted that Chatham would rebound from the recession and become stronger than ever, but Mr O'Rourke will not be there to lend a helping hand this time around.

Although he chaired the city's finance committee for the last seven years, Mr O'Rourke's illness stopped him

from taking the lead this time. Still, he did play a role in keeping municipal taxes in line, once again despite being in and out of the hospital several times since November's election.

More important, Mr O'Rourke was never one to pull punches: He told it like it was. Whether criticizing council's travel expenses or going toe to toe with the mayor, Mr O'Rourke never backed down from something he believed in. The candour and openness he brought to the council floor is something every legislative body could use an extra dose of.

On behalf of the Legislature, I wish to extend to his wife, Barbara, his four children and three grandchildren our deepest sympathy. I know the citizens of Chatham will miss Mr O'Rourke.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I rise today to congratulate the Treasurer and the Premier for gaining the applause from not only the tax fighter, Mr Harris, the member from North Bay, but also Don Mazankowski, with respect to their budgetary successes.

I might say that should be budgetary "excesses." For some strange reason, people in Ontario now believe it is acceptable government public financing policy to be running deficits of \$10 billion per year. I might note that these people are spending even more, because they have, by the trickery in their numbers-fudging, presented us with the prospect of deferred payments from this year to next, of paying interest costs on the money they are not putting into the teachers' superannuation fund, of deferring the payments that were made to people who are creditors of the government from one fiscal year to the other, of making some transactions with themselves, and of course all of us remember the Cadillac Fairview players and their ultimate result.

This is a very big win for the Premier and the Treasurer in the short term. This is a nasty, nasty loss for the people of Ontario in the long term, because we again see our deficit climbing to almost double-digit deficit figures in the billions of dollars which we will ultimately have to pay off.

RED SHIELD APPEAL

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Tonight is the annual Red Shield Appeal fund-raising drive. The recession has affected everyone. The demand for help is great, but the economic difficulties of the time mean those with the ability to contribute are fewer.

The Salvation Army helps the homeless, the needy and the less fortunate in our society, both in North York and all across Canada. The Salvation Army has a very simple criterion for providing assistance, and that is need. I'm honoured and privileged to be able to serve as this year's North York chairman.

The Red Shield goal for 1992 is \$45 million; of this amount, 29% needs to be raised in Metropolitan Toronto. In 1991 over 82,000 families in Metro Toronto alone benefited from emergency assistance from the army, and almost 140,000 men were accommodated in the army's hostel for

men. There are 59 other services in the Metro Toronto area alone meeting needs ranging from children on the streets to senior citizens.

I wish to say thank you to all of those willing to help their communities and those less fortunate on this one night a year and to encourage anyone who can spare two hours to come out tonight and join us. Call 489-0094 for placement. For those at home, when a canvasser calls this evening, give generously. It's one way to make a difference.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): It's a great pleasure to rise today on behalf of the people of Brantford. April 24, 1992, will become known as a milestone in the history of Brantford. It was on this day that our NDP government announced an additional \$1.8-million grant to Icomm, Brantford's Interactive Communications Complex, and the relocation of the computer and telecommunications services unit of the Ministry of Government Services to our very fine city. The headlines in the *Expositor*, Brantford's excellent daily newspaper, say it all: "Queen's Park Makes the Right Call" and "Sun Shines on Brantford."

To show our community's appreciation of these decisions, a Brantford delegation headed by our fine mayor, Bob Taylor, and including Garry Macdonald, president of the Brant and District Labour Council, Heather Bright of the chamber of commerce and Anne Westaway Palk and Jim Letwin of the citizens' committee met with the Premier to personally thank him this morning.

At this meeting, an example of the public message of thanks was unveiled. This message here will be in the malls in Brantford and the Toronto area, and since billboards are such a hot rage, this will go on a billboard in Brantford thanking our government.

I firmly believe our community will be able to use these tools given to the people of Brantford by our government to achieve the economic success we have missed out on and that is part of our community. The people of Brantford are proud to say Premier Bob Rae and our government made the right call.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all members that previous speakers have requested that members not bring displays into the chamber. Indeed this Speaker concurs in that wise decision and would certainly appreciate it if members in the future would not be so quick to bring displays into the chamber.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I think we have unanimous consent to make some statements here today by all parties. That is my understanding.

The Speaker: Agreed? Agreed.

1350

RACE RELATIONS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I had asked for unanimous consent so that members of the Legislature could address what is a growing concern in Ontario and of course in Canada.

Over the weekend, as you will recall, the Premier called a special meeting with members of Toronto's black

community to discuss what the Premier has characterized as "a disturbing pattern that is very troubling for people." The Premier was referring to the perception among members of the black community that the justice system in Ontario works differently depending on your race.

As you will know, Mr Speaker, the primary concern of members of the black committee the Premier met with yesterday is that the justice system does not treat them equally, that the justice system has failed them in a very profound way. It is important to note that these individuals are not looking for special treatment; all they ask for is equal treatment.

This issue is not new in Ontario. While in government, I participated on many occasions in meetings, including one which was called by the Premier of the day, Premier Peterson, to tackle some of the same concerns. Following these meetings, a number of important changes were implemented. The Police Services Act brought in employment equity plans for police and created a special investigative unit. However, much was left to be done.

We as legislators have the ability to implement change. Changes to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, re-establishing the independence of the special investigations unit and following through on commitments to police re-training will help. These may be only partial solutions, but they're extremely vital.

The reason I asked for this unanimous consent today was the belief that members of Ontario's visible minority community need to know that we all stand behind change which will fight prejudice and alleviate concerns about unequal treatment before the law. Mr Premier, I welcome you and all members to join me as we send out that message today.

Mr Speaker, you will have noticed that the comments I have made were written, because there are certain points that had to be said. But there is the other emotive part of it, the feeling. I, as a black member of this society, fear. I fear in the sense of my daughter going to work or to school and having to confront the fact that in this society at times we're seeing these murders of women. Fear because of the fact too that she is black, and I don't feel that she's protected. I feel it unfair that those who are there to protect her—that people feel they're not being protected.

This feeling is not only in this parent. It is in all the parents of the black community. The justice system has failed the black community. It has failed many other people in the community, and if it has failed the black community or any other community, it has failed society as a whole.

The chicken does come home to roost. What we saw in Los Angeles and what we saw in New York City or Atlanta or Vancouver or Halifax or Montreal are signs. I hate to use the word "fortunate," but we in Toronto see these signals. If we don't act on those signals, the consequences will be severe, and no individual Legislature can ever quell that. But we have the ability to do that; we have the ability now, before it gets out of hand in marches and people stop listening. People turn upon themselves after they are treated awfully.

The jails will reflect it, the courts will reflect it, the human rights commissions will reflect that people want their system working for them. It's a painful time. It is quite coincidental that in the audience, in the balcony, we have today the maroons from Jamaica, a successful community that has fought that kind of racism and been successful at it. I am saying this because it can be done. I know every member in this House, every one I know personally and I think I know them all, is committed to a society that is fair and where people can be treated with respect, whether they are black or not.

It is not good enough to say that the system is there and will work for you. We have to implement and enforce those things. If we scream that the special investigations unit is not working, it is not self-appointed blacks who are saying that. Thanks to those who had spoken so loudly, so emotionally about it, we had a change in that system. It takes the enforcement and the government. I know that we are committed to that kind of cause. It's painful, it hurts to feel there is no future. I know we can change that.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Once again we've been reminded that we must all live together. Violence will not solve anything. The difference between the have-nots and the haves will always exist, but we must learn to work and live together constructively.

Racism hurts everyone. The cost is great. Human dignity and pride are eroded and our development as a people is stunted. Racism affects our wellbeing and prosperity. In Ontario, a province that welcomes newcomers from every corner of the world, we have worked hard to build a harmonious society. Now it is more critical than ever. We must all stand together resolute and united in our contempt for racism. We must examine new approaches to foster greater understanding, respect and tolerance of those who are different from us.

There are underlying causes of racial tension in our society. Instead of exposing labels and pointing fingers at groups or individuals, let us examine the causes and find ways to eliminate these tensions and hurts.

Probably one of the most divisive things in our society is poverty itself. Poverty has its roots in poor education, leading to missed opportunities. I challenge the government to find new ways, through education and social services, to ensure the fullest and fairest of opportunities for all our children in this province.

Every child should have an equal opportunity to succeed. As it turns out now, one in six children in this province lives in poverty. Their families rely on food banks to survive. Children who go to school hungry often fall behind their peers. Their attention is on their empty stomach and not on their lesson.

Our leader has suggested breakfast programs as a way of involving the private sector with government. It's an opportunity to help those who have no food in their stomach to at least begin the day with a positive attitude. Our children will help to build our future. Our ideas, feelings and messages will be carried on through them. Let's give them a chance.

Children today are aware of Canada's unique role as a leader of the cultural mosaic model, yet programs designed

to foster more awareness and education have been axed by the government. Through understanding we will learn about others and overcome prejudice.

The other thing is how poverty and crime go together and how both of these are the result of social and economic conditions facing the people in Ontario. These conditions must change. People of all races must be given access to all the opportunities our province has to offer.

Our police have been given the important task of keeping our neighbourhoods and communities safe. Let us, as legislators, as leaders, continue to work with our police and those who are the leaders of our communities to make sure we build on the theory and fact of love. If we care for one another as we want to be cared for, we can then continue to build a society that has respect for all.

We must have every day as a day where we give emphasis to race relations, not just at a moment like this. Every one of us has to continue to give the leadership that is expected of us.

1400

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I welcome this opportunity to speak to the House on this question, and I will do so, having listened carefully to the comments from my colleagues in the Legislature whose opinions and feelings on these matters I have learned to trust and admire a great deal.

Upon the arrival of the first Europeans on this continent, we became a multiracial society. That fact about Canada and about our life is something which I believe is central to what we are as a country. I would argue that it is perhaps clearer now than ever before, because of the nature of the changes in our society over the last half century. It is the one central fact about Canada which makes us what we are as Canadians.

I think it's also fair to say that like every multiracial society—but let's talk particularly about our own home—racism, the notion that one race is better than another, the notion that one group of people, by virtue of the colour of their skin or their background, are superior to other people, has also been a pernicious presence in our midst for a long time.

For a long time we have preferred not to talk about it or have tried to pretend it didn't exist. It has existed in our midst for a long time. There are generations of Canadians who, through their own lives, can tell all of us of that experience; whether it was the Irish who were told upon arriving here in the 1840s and 1850s that they need not apply for jobs; whether it was native people who were described from the earliest days as savages in need of the civilizing influence of the west; whether it was the constant and entirely pernicious conflicts over language and religion which have affected our life as a province—and it's time we described it—whether it was a move in our own history in this province to exclude French as a language of instruction from our school system, an act which is still deeply felt and resented in the francophone community in our own province; whether it's young Jewish medical students discovering in the 1930s and 1940s that there were quotas limiting their ability to go to medical school in

this province; whether it was people of many backgrounds and colours who were refused or were rejected for a place to live or a club to join or a community to which they could belong, because they were Jewish or Catholic or francophone or whatever it may be.

This too is part of our history which we must now come to terms with and simply describe it for what it is, a pernicious idea that has no place in the multiracial society which we are and which we celebrate.

My friend Mr Curling spoke today very movingly about his concerns for his family. This troubles me as Premier, I can tell you, Mr Speaker, as much as anything, that there would be any Canadian who by virtue of his colour would feel that somehow he would be treated or reacted to differently if he was in a group or a crowd or downtown or driving his car. The idea that this would be going through his head is entirely unacceptable and should be seen as unacceptable to all of us in this Legislature.

We are a multiracial society. Our institutions, at their best, have reflected it and just as there is a story of discrimination and of racism, there is also a story of this Legislature coming together at critical points. This Legislature was ahead of the day when we brought forward the fair employment practices and the fair accommodation practices legislation under the premiership of Leslie Frost, and just as it was this Legislature which unfortunately went ahead and excluded French, it was this Legislature under the administration of the Conservative Party of this province which extended the rights of francophones, which extended the rights to court trials, which extended the rights to tolerance in this province.

No party has a monopoly on virtue in this instance. I can say, as Premier of the province and as someone who has tried his best to absorb something of the history of this province, that this Legislature and these governments at their best in this jurisdiction have overcome the mean-spirited tendencies which are there, with the spirit of generosity and with the movement to generosity which have always been the best part of the life of this province, the celebration that exists here: the introduction of the Human Rights Commission, landmark legislation for Canada, introduced by the Conservative Party; the work the Peterson government did in terms of the Police Services Act, and the other changes and amendments that were made that required leadership and courage when they were made and that had the full support of many members of the House as they went through.

I want to say to you, Mr Speaker, that I do not regard this as a partisan issue particularly, although I am prepared to take partisan knocks for things that we have done or not done as a government. But I do want to say that in speaking to the leadership in the black community—yesterday we had a meeting which was pulled together very quickly and which now needs to be extended to a number of other discussions which I believe we need to have across the province—I am going to need the help and support of members of the Legislature as we try to examine some of the most difficult questions about how our institutions, our education system and our justice system can be seen as more firmly fighting racism and can be seen as places

which are truly welcoming to all those who have made this province their home.

I have indicated to the federal government that we are going to need its help and understanding as well with respect to some legislative matters over which it has jurisdiction. I think it is important for us to be willing to work with all the institutions and all levels of government in a positive and constructive spirit as we strive to make it very clear that this is a province which exists for everyone. This is going to require some change at every level in terms of our institutions and in terms of some of our laws.

We have to make progress, I believe, in terms of the agenda for employment equity. We have to make progress with respect to the direction and leadership we give to the anti-racism efforts of all levels of government, but we are committed to doing this; we are committed to making progress.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to respond to the comments made by my friends Mr Curling and Mr Cousens, who have spoken on this occasion with such eloquence.

MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Before continuing with routine proceedings, last Wednesday the member for Simcoe West, Mr Wilson, rose in the House on a question of privilege.

On April 21, in the course of placing a question and a supplementary in oral question period, the member had made certain remarks about the business practices of an individual. According to the member, the individual in question had, in succeeding days, entered into communications with various media concerning the member's remarks and had distributed an altered press release and misinformation. The member was of the view that these actions amounted to intimidation, making it difficult for him to discharge his function as a member of the House.

I have since had the opportunity to review Hansard for last Wednesday and for April 21, together with the documentation the member has submitted and paragraph 46(1)2 of the Legislative Assembly Act, but I have to say that the matter falls short of establishing a *prima facie* case of privilege or contempt. I do, however, want to thank the member for the helpful and very proper way in which he drew this matter to the attention of the House and the Speaker.

1410

ORAL QUESTIONS

BUDGET

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier. It will not surprise the Premier that we want to turn to the matter of the budget presented by his government last week. It will probably not surprise the Premier, even as he points a finger at his Treasurer, that it is not my intention in raising our first questions of the day to congratulate the government on its budget. I am prepared to give them some opportunity to defend it.

I would like to take the Premier and his Treasurer, if he wishes to refer to the Treasurer, back to the budget of a

year ago, last May 15, when the Treasurer told us, in defending his budget deficit numbers, that he wanted numbers that would be credible, that he wanted achievable numbers. Well, the deficit at the end of that year turned out to be \$11 billion, so his numbers were neither credible nor clearly achievable.

This year the Treasurer's telling us to expect a budgetary deficit at year-end of \$9.9 billion. We recall the Treasurer having told us last year that his numbers were "spot on," I believe the quotation is. We all know that the spot missed the mark. I ask the Premier, borrowing the Treasurer's own phraseology, what assurance can he provide us that at the end of the day his budget deficit for 1992-93 will be spot on?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I refer that question to the Treasurer.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): For the year 1991-92 we worked very hard to make sure our expenditures were managed in a way that would ensure that the deficit would stay at a level which, while high, we thought would allow us at the same time to preserve those essential services which people across this province want and to which I think they have a right.

I might add to the leader of the official opposition that despite the fact we were under enormous, and I think it is generally conceded unanticipated pressures on the revenue side, we ended up the year with our expenditures being below what we had predicted they would be, by almost \$500 million. I think that needs to be said loudly and clearly, because we worked extremely hard to control that aspect of the deficit over which we have a lot of control, and that is expenditures. On the revenue side we of course didn't control the amount of revenue we received.

I remind the leader of the official opposition that of all the provinces that have so far brought in their budgets, I think only one, and that was Newfoundland, ended up the year—it looks as though it is going to end up the 1991-92 year—with a deficit number as it predicted it would be at the beginning of the year.

Mrs McLeod: We believed last year, and said so, that last year's budget was based more on a wish and a prayer than on a realistic financial projection. As the Treasurer references the efforts made during the year to keep the budget deficit result at only \$1 billion beyond what they had predicted, we recognize that much of the expenditure reduction was through deferrals and not through actual reduction in expenditures. We continue to hold similar concerns about this year's budget. We wonder whether the budget fails to accurately represent the situation of this province's finances. We believe it's entirely likely that the budget deficit should be reported as higher than the \$9.9-billion figure reported last Thursday.

I think it would be worthwhile if the Treasurer could, to help us with our concerns, explain the rationale for his government's delay of a reported \$564 million in payments to public sector pensions until April 1, 1993, one day after the end of the 1992-93 fiscal year. I simply want to know what possible reason, other than keeping the 1992-93 budget deficit figure below the mystical level of

\$10 billion, the government could possibly have for excluding \$564 million in payments for pensions.

Hon Mr Laughren: First, I don't think the leader of the official opposition was suggesting that the deficit number for 1992-93 should be higher than the \$9.9 billion. I don't want to put words in her mouth, but I want to make sure I understood the leader of the official opposition properly.

Second, there is surely nothing unusual, whether it's through government planning or whether it's for a household, to manage the way in which you spend your money in the most prudent way. I can tell you that money that's being deferred from January 1 to April 1 from the teachers' pension is not money we are going to spend in 1992-93; that's not money that is suddenly going to appear as a bill for the province to pay in 1992-93. What's wrong with prudent money management that says we're going to pay it on April 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year? We'll be paying interest on it in the three months that has been deferred. I don't think there's any problem. We've worked it out with the Ontario Teachers' Federation. It seems to me it's simply prudent money management.

Mrs McLeod: The Treasurer's very well aware that I was not calling for a higher deficit. I was saying that it seems quite likely to us that in accurately reflecting the province's financial situation, that deficit projection should have been reported as higher. I am not playing games with this; we are concerned that enough games are already being played. I am simply looking to ask for information so we can understand the Treasurer's approach to what he has now termed prudent accounting practices.

I want to return to the question specifically about the pension plan contributions. In the Treasurer's fiscal outlook statement dated January 23, 1992, he said that teachers' pensions alone would require just over \$1 billion this year to meet the requirements under the Teachers' Pension Act, but the estimates the Treasurer has released indicate that he is prepared to allocate just \$469 million to teachers' pensions this year, \$560 million less than the act requires.

I simply want the Treasurer to explain the inconsistencies between his government's own fiscal outlook, the Teachers' Pension Act and his 1992-93 budget. Help us to understand why we should see this as anything other than deliberate underrepresentation of the province's financial situation.

Hon Mr Laughren: I will doublecheck my information, but it's my understanding that there is no legislation that requires that teachers' pension deferral money be paid between January and April. It's an obligation on our part, but it is not our intention to pay it in those three months; we would rather wait until April 1.

In conclusion, it really is difficult to sit in my place here and get a lecture from the leader of the official opposition, the Liberal Party of Ontario, that same party that told the province about two years ago that it was having a surplus. We know what that surplus turned into, so don't talk to me about a wish and a prayer when it comes to trying to balance your books.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The Leader of the Opposition with her second question.

Mrs McLeod: I'm not making lectures, I'm simply asking questions, and I was giving the government the benefit of the doubt of taking its past statements as truth. That past statement was that the government was required to pay \$210 million more to address the unfunded liability in teachers' pensions as provided for in the Teachers' Pension Act, 1989. I was not making it up.

I recognize, particularly given the government's failure to meet last year's deficit target, that its credibility is on the line with the \$9.9-billion deficit projected for this budget. At the very least, the budget does appear to be an exercise in creative accounting, and others in addition to ourselves—credit rating agencies, for example—seem to be raising the same kinds of concerns we've raised about whether or not the budget accurately reflects Ontario's financial position.

1420

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Let me raise another of our very specific concerns and attempt to get an answer to this one. The government has submitted two claims under Ottawa's fiscal stabilization program, for a total of \$1.2 billion. It has now counted those as revenue in this year's budget, yet only two other provincial governments in Canadian history have received payments under this program and they only received the money many years after submitting their claims. Can the Treasurer tell this House how he can count this money as revenue this year when Ontario has not yet had an indication that it will receive the cash within the budget year and certainly has not received the payments?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): There is no conceivable reason why we would not receive that \$1.2 billion in stabilization payments from the federal government. This is a sum of money to which we are entitled under the fiscal arrangements agreement with the federal government. We are fully entitled to it and we have no reason to believe we will not receive it. I would remind the leader of the official opposition that the other two provinces which submitted claims did indeed receive the money which they had applied for in the second year of the claim. We are now in the second year of our claim, so I see no reason why we will not receive it.

Mrs McLeod: If the Treasurer has no conceivable reason not to expect it, perhaps he would then share with the rest of us the application made to the federal government so we can understand the basis on which he is so clearly assuming to have the payments received. The Treasurer has referred to "reasonable expectations," and I think he would agree that in most normal accounting you base it on the assumption that you are reasonably sure you're going to receive the income, but we have no reason to understand why the Treasurer feels he can expect the payments in this year.

I would ask the Treasurer first of all if he would share with us the application and, second, whether or not this question has been raised in meetings with the Prime Minister and the federal Finance minister and whether in those meetings the Treasurer has received specific assurances that those fiscal stabilization payments will be received, and will be received in this year. Or is it more likely that the government will not receive the payments this year and the government's year-end deficit will actually be considerably higher?

Hon Mr Laughren: First of all, we submitted to the federal government the stabilization claim to which the leader of the official opposition refers. There are many components of the claim and it can get quite complex, although it is not as complex as it was when it took the second year for the other claims to be realized from Alberta and British Columbia in years gone by. So we think there's less reason for a delay now than there used to be because the process is less cluttered.

Second, the federal government now is examining line by line our claim to it on the fiscal stabilization, and that is why it takes some time, because it's fairly complex. To my knowledge there's nothing secretive about it, but we can ask the federal government. They're the ones who are now working with the stabilization claim. I am not sure, to be quite frank with the leader of the official opposition, to what extent it aids the process to have the claim out floating around publicly while they're still examining it line by line, but I'll see what the general consensus on that is.

Mrs McLeod: Perhaps what the Treasurer is saying is that he's not sure it would aid the credibility of the government if that application were released to the rest of us. Let me then take the Treasurer right back to the concern I began with: the question of the government's credibility on this issue, and in turn the question of public confidence in the government.

The government is selling its budget on the basis of being financially responsible with a \$9.9-billion deficit. We're going to continue to raise our concerns that in his desire to put the best possible political face on this budget the Premier has given and the Treasurer has given a less than accurate picture of this government's finances. I would just ask the Treasurer whether he will give us an assurance that he will not be returning to the people of Ontario within the year, as he did last year, and say: "Sorry, we were wrong. We didn't get what we expected. The province's deficit is actually much higher than we thought it would be."

Hon Mr Laughren: I would rather come back to this Legislature and to the people of Ontario and say, "We didn't achieve the revenues we thought and therefore we're going to reduce expenditures accordingly to keep in line," than hide the truth from the people, which that party did when it was in office.

TAXATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. In the summer of 1990, I travelled around this province and told people that government spending was too high and that taxation was too high for this province to

be competitive. Premier, you ran around the province behind me and agreed with me. You said to everyone who would listen, "I know your taxes are too high." But you said something different from me. You said: "Don't worry. Somebody else will pay. We can afford all this spending. We can afford a new \$5-billion Agenda for People. We can afford to hike spending two and a half times the rate of inflation, because we'll make somebody pay: the rich."

Premier, after this last budget, for everyone who pays any income tax, a \$20,000-a-year earner—by most of your minister's definitions, the working poor—you hiked their income tax \$45; at \$25,000 a year up \$60. It's obvious that your definition of the rich, from the summer of 1990, is the hardworking men and women who make as little as \$20,000 a year in this province. These people already give half or more of their income to one level of government or another in taxes. Can you explain to me how further sticking it to the working poor, to the middle class of this province, fits with your Agenda for People in your campaign of 1990?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I will refer this to the Treasurer as well.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): In the budget, in view of the fact that we were determined to accomplish a number of things, we did raise some taxes. We were determined to provide some stimulus through the creation of jobs, we were determined to preserve the essential services in health and education and we were determined to keep the deficit in check.

In order to do that, we reduced our expenditures substantially this year over what we were heading for. We made a very serious attempt at that, the lowest expenditure growth in 39 years in this province. That includes Tory governments as well, I might add. Finally, we looked at tax increases that would be the fairest of all possible tax increases to impose and we selected, I think quite appropriately, the personal income tax system, which we raised 1.5% for 1992 and two points for 1993. I know this will bother the Tory party, but we believe in a tax system in which those who have the most ability to pay, pay their fair share.

Mr Harris: It certainly wasn't your Premier who travelled this province and said, "If you make \$20,000 a year you can pay more money to finance government programs."

A couple of people have called my office since the budget came out, Mr Treasurer. I want to share a couple with you today; there are thousands more.

George is an assistant chief mechanical engineer. Last year he earned \$52,534. He is 58 years old and he has just been promoted. The promotion meant a little extra money to put towards the education of his three university-age children. He was feeling pretty good until last Thursday. Treasurer, when the dental bills for his kids come in, when it comes time to pay for prescriptions for George and his wife and his family and when his kids can't find a summer job, I would ask you, Treasurer, do you think you can convince George and his wife and his family that he is part of the rich and famous here in this province?

1430

Hon Mr Laughren: We worked very hard to make sure that low-income people in the province would not pay more taxes. As a matter of fact, we've altered the Ontario tax reduction plan to make sure that happens. When it comes to—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: If I could be very specific, for 1993, a one-earner married couple with two children at \$20,000 will pay less taxes, at \$25,000 will pay less taxes, and at \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000 will not pay any more taxes.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Treasurer.

Hon Mr Laughren: All I would say to the Conservative Party of this province—and I don't want to be partisan or provocative, but if we had walked away from our obligations on post-secondary education and health care and social assistance the way the federal government has, we could reduce taxes in this province as well, but that is not our intention. We are determined to preserve those essential services.

Mr Harris: I hope the Treasurer wouldn't engage this House in telling us how much more compassionate towards the low-income earners Brian Mulroney is than he is, because that's what he just gave us with the last answer. We're talking about your budget, not the federal budget that cut taxes for middle-income and low-income Ontarians. We're talking about your budget that hiked taxes. That's what we're talking about.

That is also what Bob was talking about, a retired draughtsman. He called my office. He worked for 40 years. He scrimped and he saved. He invested in RRSPs. With his savings and his pension, he had an income of \$53,000 last year. He and his wife were pretty proud of their hard work. They were feeling pretty secure until last Thursday. That's when you told him that he is part of the rich and famous, that he can afford a 14% surtax, that he can afford to lose his senior's property tax rebate and that he can afford to lose his sales tax grant. The Bob who called my office doesn't feel rich. He feels that in Bob Rae's Ontario, hard work doesn't pay off.

Is there anything in your budget, anything that suggests to Bob, to George, to those who might be close to \$53,000—a little overtime, a little extra work would get them there—that hard work pays off in this province?

Hon Mr Laughren: We continue to believe we have here in Ontario the best conceivable place to live, to work and to invest. We continue to believe that, and what we have done in this budget is reinforce that. We have put money into job creation. We've put money into training, not only training people who are not in the workplace now, but people who are already in the workplace so they are retrained as the economy changes underneath us. We have made a major commitment to maintaining the infrastructure of this province, a major commitment to maintaining essential services in this province and I think we have

done it in a way that imposes taxes on the people who are best able to pay.

I have never said that anybody who earns \$53,000 is either rich or famous. What I have said is that a family, one income, \$60,000 a year, because of the surtax will pay \$1 a week more. I don't think that's an onerous burden in order to maintain the services in this province.

Mr Harris: Are you and Brian working together? Why do you use the federal government's cuts to average all your figures you use? Is it you and Brian now? Is that how it's working in this country? Are those the finances you're talking about?

BUDGET

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question is for the Treasurer. Treasurer, you found out on Friday that Ontario had been put on a rating alert. Obviously, using Martel math to come up with your deficit number, you got a failing grade with the bond rating agencies. Everyone knows our deficit is not what you told us last Thursday. Why did you fudge the numbers?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): There are no fudged numbers in the budget. Every number in that budget is completely defensible. Every number in that budget is real. I can assure the leader of the third party that we will achieve those numbers. If, as the leader of the third party is implying, we're not able to achieve some of the revenues, then we'll do next year as we did this past year: We'll make reductions in the expenditures in order to come in with our target number.

Mr Harris: Mr Speaker, I suggest to you that the Treasurer is playing the same transparent political game the Liberals played when they told us they had a balanced budget. I suggest to you, Treasurer, that you are no more successful in pulling the wool over our eyes, and you are certainly not successful in pulling the wool over the bond rating agencies' eyes. Ontario is now on rating alert because you have no credibility as Treasurer. That's the initial reaction. The initial reaction was that the numbers are hocus-pocus, that they're not believable, and so they put you on alert. Now they're analysing the numbers.

Treasurer, you weren't able to meet last year's deficit numbers. What have you learned and what is in this budget that should give us any confidence that you can meet the \$9.9 billion you say is this year's deficit number?

Hon Mr Laughren: To be fair, neither the federal government nor, I think, basically all the other provinces with the exception of one met the numbers they had projected for 1991-92 either, because the depth of the recession was much greater than anybody thought it was going to be. I would say to the leader of the third party as well that the rating alert we were put on is a very normal course of events for a rating agency whenever there's a new budget brought down. I don't think it's fair for the leader of the third party to imply there's anything with the numbers in the budget that's less than 100% credible.

Mr Harris: Treasurer, on January 21 you and the Premier told the transfer payment recipients to hold the line on spending increases to 1%. That's all the money that was

available. You told hospitals: "You can do it. Work hard. Find a way. You have deficits, but you can do it." Yet your spending this year will be five times higher than the increase. Your spending increase for yourself is up 5%.

Treasurer, if you had held your spending to a 1% increase the same as hospitals, colleges, universities, school boards and municipalities, you would have had \$2 billion more. With that \$2 billion you would not have had to fudge your numbers or perhaps you could have had a \$1-billion tax cut instead of a \$1-billion tax hike.

Will you explain to me and will you explain to the many people calling my office, to the Bobs and the Georges of the world, to the \$20,000-a-year taxpayer who just got hiked, why you couldn't practise the same 1% solution that you told all the transfer agencies they could do?

Hon Mr Laughren: Perhaps I could revisit that 1% number for the leader of the third party just for a moment. We did indeed transfer a 1% increase to our transfer agencies out there, but then we also put in place a 1% transition fund to help them, because there's a history in this province of double-digit transfers to the agencies and to ask them to ratchet down to 1% in one year was pretty dramatic. We know that, so we put in place another 1% as a transition fund, so really it's closer to 2%.

If you were to remove from the Ontario government increase in spending next year social assistance or statutory requirement and interest on the public debt, our increase in spending for next year is only 1.5%. I think that's something we should be commended for, not criticized for, by the leader of the third party.

1440

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Treasurer too. Pursuing the line of trying to get at how you arrived at these numbers, you are anticipating, I gather, about a 2% increase in Health expenditures this year. We see by the estimates now that this is as a result of getting about a 2% reduction in your costs to doctors in the province. A year ago, as you recall, the Premier was very pleased with the agreement signed with the Ontario Medical Association, and that agreement called for some fairly significant increases. Have you the agreement of the OMA for these numbers? What is the basis for that 2% reduction in payments to doctors?

Hon Mr Laughren: First, the Minister of Health is engaged actively in negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association. Second, we will be presenting a paper on the health care system, I think, within a week or 10 days, and perhaps that will shed some more light on the issue for the member.

Mr Phillips: To pursue along those lines, you can see why the opposition has some significant reservations about the numbers in the budget, and here's another example. There is a six-year agreement that was proudly signed by the government last year. There are assurances in that agreement. The doctors made the agreement last year saying, "Listen, we don't like it, but in this climate we will sign it."

How can you put in a budget numbers that reflect a collective agreement, and yet you have numbers in your budget that indicate you have agreement to a substantial reduction? You have an indication that you have the agreement, on the other side, on the collective bargaining process here.

Hon Mr Laughren: That's exactly what the Minister of Health is talking to the OMA about. There is an agreement with the OMA. Unless I hear the member opposite saying we should not be talking to the OMA about entrance to medical schools, graduation from medical schools, location of doctors and specialists in the province—if the member opposite is saying we shouldn't be talking about those things in order to contain the growth in health care costs, I wish he'd stand in his place and say so, but I don't quite hear him saying that.

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Although budgetary matters are very important, it's also very important that this week is Education Week in most of Ontario. Unfortunately the Minister of Education should understand that there's precious little to celebrate in the Carleton area, where high school teachers are still on strike and some 15,000 kids are entering their fifth week of no school. This date also will be marked as a work to rule for the elementary school teachers at the Carleton Board of Education. Considering that these students have been out so long, Mr Minister, and the time is getting short to the end of the year, when are you going to legislate the teachers back to work?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): As I am sure the member knows, negotiations have been going on in the Carleton secondary school strike situation over this weekend and are continuing today, and I hope the member would be the first to agree with me that given that those negotiations are continuing, the last thing I should be doing is talking here or anywhere else about legislation. The process is continuing; serious negotiations are taking place. I think there is a resolution that can be found locally, and I think the parties are working towards finding it.

Mr Sterling: This is the fifth week. There are only perhaps six weeks left to the end of school. Many of these high school students who are on the semester system have lost the equivalent of eight weeks of school. The time between now and the end of the year will never allow those students to pick up the schooling which they have lost.

Mr Minister, when are you going to take some action to put these kids back in school where they belong? Who in fact are you more interested in, the teachers, the boards or the students?

Hon Mr Silipo: Let me just say that my primary interest very clearly is the students. I've said, not only with respect to what is happening here in Ottawa but in other cases in the past, that we will do whatever is necessary to ensure that however these issues get resolved, the school year for students is protected. We will do that here, as we've attempted to do in other situations. I have every

hope that a resolution to the strike can be found very quickly and also that the question of the school year will be addressed appropriately as a result of that.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. We all know our country and our province are moving towards a global economy. In the speech from the throne, we heard how important it is for us to invest in our human resources and in the people of this province. Our multicultural mosaic is an invaluable resource. Our people possess the language skills and a full understanding of other countries' cultures and laws. These are resources that lend themselves quickly to natural economic links which will in the end create prosperity and jobs here in Ontario.

The former Liberals and Tories failed to tap into this very valuable resource. My question to you, Mr Minister, is, given the multicultural fabric of Canadian society, what is your ministry doing to facilitate and promote business between Canadians and their countries of origin?

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): The participation of Ontario's ethnic communities and business area represents both an opportunity and a strength to this province. My ministry, together with the ethnic business communities and the chambers of commerce, is working to promote business links within their own communities and overseas. Our goal is to bring investment, joint ventures and jobs to the province.

Our ministry's business immigration section helps to bring investment capital and business expertise to Ontario's marketplace through outreach to our ethnic communities. Small Business Ontario has opened offices in each of the ethnic community centres, and our international development corporations and foreign offices are working actively to create new joint ventures in cooperation with the business communities that exist here.

Mr Perruzza: These are all welcome initiatives, but what can the minister point to specifically in the speech from the throne which lends itself to the achievement of these kinds of goals?

Hon Mr Philip: Certainly the establishment of the investment development office, a one-stop shopping service, will be a major step towards attracting and obtaining new investment in this province. The initiative to decrease taxation for small-business manufacturers and resource companies sends a very strong signal to investors that Ontario is open for business. It encourages investment. In 1994 the tax rate on manufacturers will be almost 5% less than that of our major competitors across the border, such as New York. Those are just a few of the initiatives that stem from this budget.

OMA AGREEMENT

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I want to follow up with the Treasurer on the credibility issue and on the numbers that are in the budget for Health. I alert the Treasurer that we've many questions about these numbers. But specifically with the doctors, there was an agreement. It was a six-year financial agreement between

the government and the doctors of this province, signed in good faith by the Premier, a guarantee for six years.

The question is this: That has certain assurances to the doctors in it. It calls for a minimum of a 3% increase in the doctors' payments. This calls for a 2% reduction. We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars of your deficit reduction in here. Have you assurances from the Ontario Medical Association that it is prepared to reopen the contract and entertain a \$400-million or \$500-million reduction in its contract? Have you had those assurances from the OMA?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The member will understand that there was a framework agreement worked out with the Ontario Medical Association, but I really don't understand why the member is approaching the issue this way. I don't think that should prevent the Minister of Health from going to the OMA and saying: "Look, we've got some problems in containing the cost of health care. Let us sit down and see if there are ways in which we can contain the increase in the growth of health care." I don't think there's anything there at this point, at least that I've heard, that says we shouldn't be doing that.

Why would the OMA not want to sit down with the Minister of Health and say, "Yes, we know we must contain the growth in the cost of health care as well"? Because everybody, including the doctors, has an enormous amount at stake in making sure that we preserve medicare in this province.

1450

Mr Phillips: Treasurer, I go back to your credibility here. There is absolutely nothing wrong with talking to the doctors. Clearly there's nothing wrong with sitting down and finding ways to operate more efficiently, but to claim in advance \$500 million less than is included in their contract, to essentially say, "Listen, we've already put in the budget. We are going to take out hundreds of millions of dollars," surely the Treasurer will understand this is no way to conduct collective bargaining. You don't say, "We've already set the budget, now we'll negotiate with you."

Aren't you really just trying to put a gun to the heads of the doctors? Your credibility is at stake here, Treasurer. What assurances do we have that these numbers with the doctors are real? Because in the final analysis I gather you have an ironclad, six-year, contractual arrangement with these doctors.

Hon Mr Laughren: We do have a framework agreement with the medical profession, but I want to assure the member that it's not a case of putting a gun to the head of the medical profession. That is not the way this government functions.

We are simply saying that the Minister of Health—and I don't want to inject myself into that process at this point—is sitting down with the OMA. We've set a target, to which the member refers, and the Minister of Health now sits down with the OMA and sees how we, working together, can achieve that target. There's nothing mysterious about it or nothing threatening about it.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The budget has now come forward and of course it's quite clear that your government intends to finance itself through games of chance, with gambling casinos. I've asked this question before and quite obviously you haven't understood the question, but now you've had an opportunity to study it. My question is, precisely what feasibility studies have you and your ministry started to find out the repercussions of the government's plans to introduce casinos to the province of Ontario?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I certainly have understood the question. As always, I understood the question. I think the member has trouble understanding the answer from time to time.

Cabinet has decided there will be controlled gambling set up in this province that will be casino gambling. We will work and consult with interested communities over the next few months on the organization and the implementation in that controlled and careful way we proceed here. Certainly we will be looking at feasibility studies in the process of that consultation.

Mr Tilson: That leads to my second question. It's that very point, the fact that you quite clearly do not have any feasibility studies. You quite clearly do not intend to have them at this particular point.

On April 28 you met with the Ontario Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association, which made it quite clear it was opposing your plan with respect to gambling casinos. At that time you told this group that you would not be doing any studies until after the legislation had been passed in the House, until after you had implemented the plan to have gambling casinos. In other words, you're going to implement the gambling casinos first and then you're going to have a feasibility study to see how they have affected the horse-racing industry in this province.

Having said this, will you be more specific? I hope you've reconsidered that. Surely you don't do something first and then have a feasibility study to see how that affected the industry. Will you tell us when you intend to table your feasibility study, if you have one, in this House so we can all look at it and study it?

Hon Ms Churley: Clearly it takes some time, once a decision has been made, to implement casinos in Ontario. Clearly it takes some time to bring that into place. It will require legislation and it will also require extensive consultation with the groups that would be affected by the legislation. So, as I said, we are moving in a controlled way.

Obviously my ministry has done some studies. Obviously we have looked at information that already exists out there within Canada and the United States. Obviously we have talked to the various components of the horse-racing industry. I understand some of them are going to do feasibility studies as well. Obviously this is a very complex subject. There's a lot of work to be done on all fronts.

We will look at feasibility studies in the process of developing this in a very careful way, and of course after

the fact we will also look at the implications of the running of casinos.

RACE RELATIONS

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): This weekend, in my riding of Durham East, there was considerable discussion about the dreadful situation in Los Angeles, and I have heard the all-party statement in the House today. My question is to the Minister of Citizenship. Madam Minister, can you advise the House what steps the Ontario government is taking to combat racism?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Human Rights, Disability Issues, Seniors' Issues and Race Relations): Thank you very much for the question. I know the concern that has been raised in the House today by all three parties, and we certainly all share this responsibility. As you know, last year we made a statement in the House about setting up an Anti-Racism Secretariat in Ontario, which would develop a strategy to fight racism, whether it's in our private sector or whether it's in the public sector.

We have just recently gone through an extensive process of hiring an assistant deputy minister, because we felt the situation was so critical and because we wanted to have a person who could fill the needs of all the communities. We opened the process to the hiring so that community members sat on the hiring process as well. We have a very good individual who has now taken on that responsibility.

We've also set up an advisory committee whose task is to help the government to understand racism issues in various regions of the province, because as we go across the province the issues are very different, very complicated and very diverse. There are members from all sectors and from all regions of the province as well; when I say "all sectors," I mean people who represent the community, whether it's in education, within the public sector or in business. These people are going to meet with us. It is a very complicated course that we've taken, because we do feel it is a very sensitive issue that must be addressed today. I thank the member for his question. If there is a supplementary I will expand.

GOVERNMENT ASSETS

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I think most people viewed last week's budget and understand that businesses and government keep different sets of books, but I believe the budget has put a new meaning on the term "sleight of hand." I would question the Treasurer's and the chairman of the treasury board's numbers and credibility in that budget.

The government has estimated it will receive \$1.2 billion this year and in all future years from sales and rentals. Last year, I point out to the Treasurer, the government received only \$93 million in that category, that catch-all of sales and rentals. The government expects to increase its revenues by more than 1,000% this year and each year into the future if the budget is to be believed. How can the Treasurer justify such an enormous increase in its sales and rental line? Treasurer, isn't this really just an example of your cooking of the books?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I am deeply, personally offended by that comment but I will struggle on.

To be fair, we established a program review this year. We set up 21 program reviews in government, one of which had to do with the sale of assets. We just got it started. Give us time to get this program review really under way. That's why this year, the year we've just completed, there were not many asset sales. We do not want to conduct a fire sale of government assets.

I would remind the member opposite that there are billions of dollars of assets in this province that the government owns, that the people of this province own. They're not all strategic, and we think the numbers we've put in here are very, very achievable. There's the other half of Suncor to sell, there's SkyDome to sell; the Ontario Land Corp will be selling land for us. We are talking about selling a very small proportion of this government's assets, and no strategic ones at that.

1500

Mrs Caplan: In supplementary to the Treasurer and to the chairman of the treasury board, in fact what he's just told us is that his \$1.2-billion number is a mythical number. He's told us this is just an attempt by the government to keep his outrageous deficit under \$10 billion in the estimates for this year. Again it is a question of credibility.

Last year this Treasurer staked his credibility on making a prediction of \$9.7 billion; that was last year's budget. Now it turns out that that deficit for 1991-92 is higher than the Treasurer promised us last year; in fact, it's \$10.9 billion. He was out by \$1 billion last year, plus two in-year adjustments of \$1.2 billion; very serious mistakes in last year's budget. Given the past history, why should anyone believe this Treasurer's predictions? Second, is he willing to take a polygraph test?

Hon Mr Laughren: I'll ignore the last comment, which trivializes the importance of this debate. The member opposite complains about the outrageous deficit. I think just a few minutes ago they were complaining about how low the transfer payments were. Then, of course, every day they're on their feet complaining about how we're not funding programs adequately. Every day we get a contradictory message from the official opposition. At some point, you're going to have to stake out your turf and tell the people of the province where you stand. Do you want more taxes or do you want fewer taxes? You cannot continue to have it both ways. I would also point out to the member for Oriole that not once when they were in government did they meet their targets either.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): You're not that pure to be giving lectures like that.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member for Etobicoke West come to order.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. You would be aware of how anxious and nervous and concerned the children's aid societies across Ontario

were when they anticipated budget news last week. You would be aware that virtually every children's aid society has a large deficit. In Metropolitan Toronto, where we are now, it's well in excess of \$1.5 million and growing.

In light of the fact that the programs provided by children's aid societies are mandated by law for every child who is identified as needing them, these are—

Interjection.

Mr Jackson: If the member for Huron is not interested in the children's aid society, I know his own in Huron is interested in this question.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Jackson: My question deals with the fact that foetal alcohol syndrome is on the rise, drug-dependent newborn infants are on the rise; child sexual abuse and child physical abuse are all on the increase in this province. Minister, given these facts and given your government's rhetoric, why is it you've been saying no to children's aid societies with their deficits, which are cutting services, and yet you're able to say yes with \$100 million to put the private day care centres out of business in this province or with \$15.2 million for the symbolic gesture of bilingual highway signs? Why can you say no to children, yet yes to those special interests?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): The member will have to ask the Minister of Transportation about bilingual traffic signs, and that's been handled in this House a number of times. I certainly agree with the member that the problems families and their children are facing are very severe and very serious, and there has been a clear recognition of that on our part. The problem for us, of course, is that we do not have additional moneys left over at the end of the year to throw at the problems the children's aid societies have had.

Quite frankly, the way in which both previous governments funded in this area was that they set a funding system that in fact was not an effective funding system. Then, at the end of the year when there were dollars left over, they threw them to the children's aid societies as a bit of a bonus. We were not in that luxurious position this year, given the problems of our budget. We have made a commitment to the children's aid societies of this province that we will take the steps long promised by previous governments to look at the funding system, to put it on a more rational basis, and to give them assistance of a much more equitable and effective way of providing the services.

I would remind the member that not all services children's aid societies provide are mandated. In fact, some of them have been services that the societies have brought about in response to community need.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Mrs Boyd: We will try to meet those needs in other ways through other prevention methods that will be announced as time goes on.

Mr Jackson: Minister, you've missed the point. In this day and age, governments, like taxpayers, cannot af-

ford to do all things for all people. My question to you had to do with how you can invite such offensive priorities at a time when these children, nearly three million of them in this province, are relying on you, as the minister, to fight for them at the cabinet table.

All the statistics on abuse for children are up. My point to you, Minister, was that in your budget information, which we've now received, for just your civil service here at Queen's Park and around the province dealing with children's aid societies you found \$5.5 million to increase their salaries and benefits, yet in here, for child and family crisis intervention, you found less than \$2 million for all the children and families in this province.

Madam Minister, it was your Premier who said, and I want to quote—

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Jackson: The question is this: Your government, in its first throne speech, said that you will be saying yes to those who are vulnerable, even though it "will mean saying no to others whose claims are presented more loudly." I repeat, how can you say no to the children's aid societies and the millions of children, and say yes, whether it's the civil service who got the big bonus or bilingual highway signs or putting the private sector—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. The question's been asked.

Hon Mrs Boyd: In fact we have added dollars to all services to children. The member is simply giving information in such a way that it is being put extremely unfairly.

We see the 20,000 spaces we are putting forward in terms of child care as primary prevention. We see the organization, the courage we have to retool our child care system to make it a system, in the face of the abdication of the federal government and its promise to provide a child care system, as being very much the kind of move we are making on behalf of children. There will be a number of announcements about the kinds of moves we are going to be making in terms of primary prevention for children and the integration of children's services as time goes on.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I'd like to respond to a question asked last Tuesday, April 28, by the member for Mississauga North. The member raised the issue of Denison Mines and the withdrawing of funding on May 31 from the lung cancer early detection and treatment program for uranium miners in Elliot Lake.

The member, I'm sure, is aware that the funding for this program was something negotiated with Algoma Steel and Denison Mines and was not something this government was funding. The Canadian Institute for Radiation Safety, which runs the program, has indicated that it's unable to continue the program without the funds from Denison Mines.

Some of the functions carried out by the program can be continued through the physicians of the clients. There are about two tests a year currently, those they're really

looking at in the program. Other mechanisms to continue the program are also being discussed. At the moment, we don't have a final decision on this.

In reference to the member's supplementary question regarding the Ministry of Labour's proposal to decrease the X-ray and pulmonary lung function testing of the chest clinics and to retain the chest clinics primarily as reading and storage facilities, this was part of the ministry review of its programs due to government-wide constraints and was accepted with the condition that consultations would be conducted with clients in the affected communities. In many communities, chest X-ray and pulmonary function services are now readily available through local clinics and hospitals and, in some cases, through employer-sponsored clinics. Accordingly, the need for ministry-sponsored full-service clinics is at this time being re-evaluated.

1510

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): With all due respect, I find it shameful that the Minister of Labour, when I first posed the question, was both unaware of what was going on at Denison Mines and was unaware as to the cutbacks that were taking place within his own ministry.

I think it's clear with respect to the response given by the Minister of Labour today that there is no question that you are going to be cutting back the services needed by those workers, primarily in northern Ontario, to make certain the mobile cancer unit will be in operation. Your statement today and your response have verified the information we received. I find it absolutely incredible, first, that you were unaware of these two very important issues to the many workers who are involved and, second, that you are today confirming that this very important service, which was available to those workers, is now going to be cut.

My question to the minister, by way of supplementary: What programs are you going to be further cutting? What are you going to be looking at in terms of the reduction of the mobile cancer checkup? Is this service, which has been provided by the occupational health and safety section of your Ministry of Labour, now at an end? That is the very least you can give in terms of information to the workers of this province. You've turned your back on them, because that's a necessary service. You've confirmed that, and what we want to know is whether you are prepared to re-evaluate this decision which will affect the workers and their families.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'm not sure where the member gets his information. We have not deserted these workers; it's not our intention to desert these workers. And I was well aware of the two areas we were looking at. I can simply tell you that we intend to maintain quality control for interpretation and reporting, and retain the reading and storage facilities. The letter he referred to from Mary Tate of the ministry was simply a letter outlining some of the options and a request for consultation on how we will continue these programs. I think you should get your information straight for once.

PETITIONS

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): I have a petition I'd like to present:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London; and

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings; and

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report on the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being a patently undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have one here from the area of Windsor and Essex, from approximately 300 or 400 people of Serbian descent:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"In that we are Canadians of Serbian descent, we take great offence at the racist comments made by John Sola, MPP, in his interview with The 5th Estate on Tuesday, December 3, 1991. We feel that his comments have no place in Canadian or Ontario politics, and as a result of his racist behaviour, he should be asked to resign his seat in Parliament. Our country has no place for people who hate their fellow countrymen simply as a result of their race or ethnic origin."

I have signed this and submit it.

MUSKOKA CENTRE

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): I have a petition from the people of south Muskoka, and it is as follows:

"Whereas the Muskoka Centre is an institution operated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in south Muskoka; and

"Whereas the Muskoka Centre is the largest employer in south Muskoka community, having a salary allocation in 1991-92 budget of over \$10 million; and

"Whereas Muskoka Centre is scheduled for closing in March of 1994 and the economic impact on south Muskoka will be severe; and

"Whereas no alternative use for the site has been determined that will alleviate the economic impact;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the Parliament of Ontario recognize the severe impact on employment and the economy of south Muskoka by the closing of Muskoka Centre and introduce measures to replace these jobs lost and wages to the community."

There are over 1,000 signatures on the petition, and I too affix my signature.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation of London; and

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings; and

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process, and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

CHILD CARE

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): My petition is to the Parliament of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government of Bob Rae is proceeding in the direction of universal, publicly funded, non-profit child care in Ontario; and

"Whereas the NDP Ministry of Community and Social Services is proceeding to eliminate, without consultation, the private sector in child care; and

"Whereas the elimination of private sector child care is fiscally irresponsible and unjustifiable and will compound existing child care funding problems; and

"Whereas such elimination takes away from Ontario parents the right to choose in day care; and

"Whereas the majority of parents in Ontario are in favour of this right to choose;

"We, the undersigned 3,000 parents, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the NDP government of Bob Rae take immediate steps to ensure the right to choice in child care in Ontario by allowing private sector child care to continue its needed services to children and parents, and for the government to cancel its plans to eliminate private sector child care in Ontario."

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I present the following petition to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London; and

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings; and

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process, and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

1520

MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have another petition of over 3,000 names from people of the Serbian community.

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, draw the attention of the Ontario Legislature to the following:

"That on December 3, 1991, John Sola, Liberal MPP for Mississauga East, told The 5th Estate, "I don't think I'd be able to live next door to a Serb";

"That John Sola was elected to office to represent all his constituents equally;

"That Mr Sola spoke these offensive and racist words as an elected member of the Ontario Legislature from his Queen's Park office and not as a private individual;

"That rather than apologize or retract his comments, he further hurt and attacked Canadians of Serbian heritage;

"That Mr Sola stands by his comments;

"That the Toronto Star, in an editorial published December 16, 1991, called for the Legislature to censure Mr Sola and the Liberal Party to expel him from its caucus and that the Ottawa Citizen published a column asking for the expulsion of John Sola from the Liberal caucus, and that to date the Legislature and the Liberal Party have been silent on the Sola affair, choosing rather to ignore this shameful and dangerous incident which if left unchecked can breed intolerance and hate in Canada."

So submitted with my name attached and over 3,000 other names.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Like a number of my other colleagues, I have a petition, which I will not read in its entirety, which is signed by several people from the London-Middlesex area, all of which group

seems to be singularly unimpressed with the Brant arbitration and with the government's general policy with respect to municipal boundaries in that part of southwestern Ontario.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a number of petitions signed by 528 Ontario residents representing both the management and employees of a number of Ontario companies, and it reads:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have, as part of now over 107,000 signatures on this petition, this one from the riding of Northumberland. There are 2,752 from the riding of Northumberland.

"Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation

minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million this year be revoked immediately."

As I say, that's signed from 2,752 residents of Northumberland riding and has my signature.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a petition:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million this year represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have here fewer than 100 signatures.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the French Language Services Act, 1986, Bill 8, continues to elevate tensions and misunderstandings over language issues throughout the province, not only at the provincial but also at municipal levels; and

"Whereas the current government disputes its self-serving select committee and intends to encourage increased use of French in the courts, schools and other provincial services to ensure that the French Language Services Act is working well to the best of their concentrated efforts; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of government to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the duplication of departments, translations etc to comply not only with the written but also with the unwritten intent of the French Language Services Act; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of education to the taxpayers are being forced even higher due to the demands of yet another board of education—French-language school board;

"We, the undersigned, request that the French Language Services Act be repealed and its artificial structures dismantled immediately, and English be declared as the

official language of Ontario in governments, its institutions and services."

Mr Murdoch: I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by fewer than 50 people.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

It is signed by me and submitted with respect.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time allotted for the presentation of petitions has expired.

1530

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I'm pleased to begin the debate on the budget and share with the House some comments and thoughts on the budget. As you look at the budget there are three objectives in the budget, as the Treasurer outlined for us. The first is to control the deficit, the second is to take what I think were called in the budget immediate steps to create jobs and the

third was to maintain important public services. As I look at the budget, I think on all three cases the budget will fail.

Let me start with controlling the deficit. This is now the second budget the government has presented, and in terms of controlling the deficit, as you will recall, Mr Speaker, last year's anticipated deficit as we headed into the fiscal year was \$9.7 billion. Now those numbers are so huge one can lose perspective on them, but as we went into the budget year it was \$9.7 billion. We now learn from the Treasurer that last year's deficit didn't stay at the \$9.7 billion but in fact went to about \$11 billion, and we now have before us a budget that calls for a deficit of \$9.9 billion.

What that will mean in two years—two short years—is that the entire accumulated debt of the province will go up by 50%. We add up all the debt from the time this province started until the NDP was elected. In two years, the debt has gone up 50%.

What that means for the average family of four out there is that two years ago, when the government was elected, that family owed \$16,000. That family now owes \$24,000. Their debt per individual is now \$6,000 and for a family of four it's \$24,000. So you start to think: Somebody's got to pay the interest on that every year. If people out there are watching this program now and they've got a family of four, as I say, two years ago they owed \$16,000. They probably were paying about \$1,600 a year on interest for the provincial government debt. They now will find that they owe about \$24,000 and a family of four is paying about \$2,400 in interest.

In terms of controlling the deficit and the debt, which was one of the Treasurer's three objectives, you can see, Mr Speaker, how the deficits and the debt are in serious trouble. I think even the Treasurer would acknowledge that. When you look back at the plan the Treasurer had last year at budget time, the actual deficit over the four years of this government is now with this budget going to be even higher in total than he had planned last year at this time. While the public perception out there may be that the Treasurer is better controlling this deficit, in fact if you add up four years of deficits, with this year's budget it's actually going to be higher than was anticipated a year ago.

Frankly, we have some questions about the accuracy of the deficit the Treasurer is projecting in the budget he presented last Thursday. I'll give you four specific areas where we've raised—and we will be raising more—questions about how accurate the deficit is. These are four of what I think may turn out to be more than four areas as we get deeper into the budget.

The first is on what's called the fiscal stabilization. If you look at the budget, I think it's page 81 in the budget, the Treasurer is anticipating receiving from the federal government, under a column that's called "Other," an additional \$1.2 billion in what's called "Fiscal Stabilization Money". We have some questions about whether in fact the Treasurer is going to get that money.

Last year he put in his budget about a \$585-million fiscal stabilization number in anticipation of the federal government paying that, and lo and behold, it didn't come to pass. We see this year the Treasurer is anticipating a

\$1.2-billion fiscal stabilization payment from the federal government. What's the likelihood of getting that? We don't know.

We've asked the Treasurer to provide us with the application so we can look at it and get some idea on what basis the application was made. As a matter of fact, the Treasurer will know that I asked for that application back in December, and I twice since then have asked treasury officials, "Give us the application so we can have some idea of how likely it is that the federal government will provide that \$1.2 billion."

Certainly, as we heard on the weekend from various federal treasury officials, at the very least it's doubtful that we will get that money in this fiscal year. So our first question on the size of the deficit revolves around whether in fact these federal transfer payments that are anticipated are likely to come about.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think this is a very significant debate. In fairness to the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, who is debating the budget of the province of Ontario in the absence of a single member of Premier Bob Rae's cabinet and, I suggest, in the absence of a quorum, I don't think—

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): I'll ask the table if there is quorum.

Mrs Marland: Is the government whip a member of cabinet?

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt.

Mr Phillips: On the question of how accurate the numbers are, I would say to the Treasurer that our first question, as I think he already knows, revolves around the likelihood of getting the fiscal stabilization funds. The Treasurer will know that I asked him back in December for a copy of the application, to get some sense of whether the likelihood of receiving that money was significant or not. Our first question around the numbers is: How likely are we to get those moneys from the federal government?

The second big area in which we would raise concerns with the Treasurer about the \$9.9-billion deficit has to do with the estimate that we will get, I think, \$1.2 billion from what's called in the budget "Sales and Rentals." In the last two fiscal years, as the Treasurer would know, the revenue from those two sources, sales and rentals, was \$97 million in 1991 and \$93 million in 1991-92. What the Treasurer has in the budget now is \$1.2-billion worth of revenue.

We heard today that the Treasurer is anticipating \$150 million from SkyDome and \$60 million from Suncor. That leaves us about \$1 billion of revenue that is completely unaccounted for in the budget. It simply says "Sale of Assets." Furthermore, as we look ahead at future fiscal years, the Treasurer is assuming that every year we will get \$1 billion from sale of assets.

I just raise a real question about, first, how accurate that could be and, second, is it the intention of the government to continue to pay for the operating deficits by selling off our assets? At some stage surely we run out of assets. I saw a comment on the weekend from one of the account-

ants in the province saying, "If they tried to account for handling revenue in the form the Treasurer's accounting for—"

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Who?

Mr Phillips: The Treasurer says, "Who?" It was an accountant on the weekend in the media who said they wouldn't be allowed to do that; an accountant wouldn't be allowed to do that. That's one of the reasons why, frankly, we are going to ask the Provincial Auditor to look at several of the accounting practices the Treasurer is pursuing here to see whether in fact under normal accounting procedures and principles that will accurately reflect the budget.

1540

We've now gone through \$1.2 billion in fiscal stabilization money from the federal government, and the federal officials say it is virtually an impossibility for that money to come in in this fiscal year. The numbers that are required for the application, I gather, won't be complete for many months and, as reported in the media on the weekend, the federal officials say it's virtually an impossibility. That's the second area of concern we have about managing this \$9.9-billion deficit.

The third one has to do with the payment of pension money. I read the Treasurer's Ontario Fiscal Outlook very carefully when he put it out, as he will know. On page 14 it says "Teachers' Pension Fund," 1991-92, \$820 million, 1992-93, \$1.030 billion; the difference \$210 million. On page 16 it says, "the government is required to pay \$210 million more to address the unfunded liability in teachers' pensions, as provided in the Teachers' Pension Act, 1989." This fiscal outlook document says it's required to make that payment of \$1.03 billion.

As we look at the expenditure estimates the Treasurer released last Thursday in their totality, what is provided for the teachers' pensions? It's not the \$1 billion the Treasurer said was required under the Teachers' Pension Act. It is \$469 million. I gather a similar reduction was made in the Ontario public service pension. So what we see in the budget is what is called a cash rescheduling at page 73. What it says is that we will reschedule our matching contributions "so that these are made every three months, instead of every two weeks," and we will move our payment from the first business day in January to the first business day in April of each year, and "These measures will result in cash flow savings of \$564 million."

My comment is that when we had the document, Ontario Fiscal Outlook, that the Treasurer put out in January as a document that would allow all of us to become more involved in the budget process and that said the government is required to make these payments, and then when the budget came out we see payments to the teachers' pension of less than half of what was planned in the fiscal outlook, we start to ask questions about whether this budget reflects the true picture or is it what's called "Rescheduling of Cash Payments" in the budget. Treasurer, is it rescheduling of cash payments or is it an attempt to artificially reduce the deficit? Again, that would be a question we would ask the Provincial Auditor.

Hon Mr Laughren: You might.

Mr Phillips: We will ask the Provincial Auditor. The Treasurer says "You might," and we say we will for that particular reason.

A fourth area in the numbers that we would question—as I say, we've had this document now for I guess four days, and there may be substantially more areas, but I'm kind of highlighting the ones we're raising questions about with the Treasurer.

Hon Mr Laughren: Aren't you glad you had the weekend to study it?

Mr Phillips: Indeed I am. The Treasurer wanted to know if I'm glad I had the weekend to study it, and I am.

The fourth area is the question we raised in the House today, that is, one of the big areas where the Treasurer has indicated they will be significantly restraining expenditures in health care. I recall vividly a year ago that the Treasurer and the Minister of Health proudly had their document on restraining expenditures in health care. I can remember vividly the Premier with the OMA agreement, saying, "This is a breakthrough document"—

Hon Mr Laughren: A landmark.

Mr Phillips: A landmark document, thank you, Treasurer. I can remember him saying that perhaps this was a major breakthrough in relations between the doctors of this province and the government.

Now we see that the health care spending last year, for the fiscal year that just ended a little more than a month ago, actually went up 10%, if I'm not mistaken, I think more than the Treasurer had anticipated when he prepared his budget; and now we see that the Treasurer has built in a 2% increase in health care spending for this year.

What is the basis for that? Again, we have the benefit of the expenditure estimates that the Treasurer released last Thursday. It would appear the basis on which the health budget is being kept to 2% is by restraining the doctors' portion of it. As a matter of fact, as I look at the document it says, "Payments made for services and for care provided by physicians and practitioners will be going down by \$167 million over the 1991-92 estimates."

My understanding is that the agreement with the doctors—and it's a six-year agreement that, as I recall it, actually may even require legislative approval to change—at the very least was signed in good faith by the doctors. It was trumpeted by the Premier as an absolute breakthrough agreement.

Today we learned the basis on which the government is planning to restrain its health spending: It is through a 2% reduction in that budget, which is an agreement that's a contractual obligation, and I believe the agreement calls for a minimum—even with no fee increase—of a 3.5% increase.

So the fourth area where we would raise questions about the controlling of the deficit and about the credibility of these numbers is in the health care spending area.

As we look at the first objective the Treasurer set for this budget, which is controlling the deficit, I would say that the deficit over the four years—the four budgets it's

anticipated this government will have—is actually even higher in total than the Treasurer had predicted a year ago.

Interjection.

Mr Phillips: No question of that, Treasurer; that's the case, that we will see the debt of the province double over those four years.

I think the Treasurer has said that the anticipation could be that we will be spending as much as 20% of our tax revenue just to service the debt in three to four years. If you look again, Mr Speaker, at what I found a useful chart in the budget on page 89 you can see that debt, as a percentage of our gross domestic product, is already this year, 1992-93, at an all-time high, substantially higher than it's ever been before; public debt interest as a percentage of revenue. A year ago I think the Treasurer was saying we would keep it at 10%; it's now 12.6% in your budget—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): And growing.

Mr Phillips: And growing, as my colleague would say. So in terms of the first objective the Treasurer set in his budget—that is, controlling the deficit—already, even with the numbers that are in here at the \$9.9 billion, we would say that over the four years of this government we will see debt double. We will see a debt of about \$80 billion in the province, and we have some significant questions about the accuracy of this year's deficit.

1550

We will be raising those questions as we proceed with the debate. As my leader has said, we will be asking the Provincial Auditor to provide us with the assistance to look at those numbers. I would hope we will get from the Treasurer himself the fiscal stabilization numbers.

The second objective in the budget was jobs. On page 2 of the budget, the Treasurer said, "We are creating three major funds to support new jobs." As we look at how many new jobs are actually supported or created in this budget, I say to the Treasurer that while it shows a total of 90,000 jobs created or supported, I would think he would be hard pressed to find 10,000 new jobs in this number.

Hon Mr Laughren: It doesn't say all new.

Mr Phillips: Indeed it doesn't. It says "create or support," and I am saying to the Treasurer that you talk about 90,000 jobs supported or created. The maximum number of new jobs in this budget would be 10,000. In fact, I don't think there are 10,000 new jobs.

Whereas the Treasurer on page 1 of his document says, "We are taking immediate steps to create jobs," and on the second page, "We are creating three major funds to support new jobs," the fact of the matter is, as the Treasurer has already acknowledged, I think, that there are virtually no new jobs in the budget.

The base capital spending is exactly the same as last year. That supports 67,000 jobs—no new jobs there, none. The Jobs Ontario homes fund: 2,400 jobs. That's fewer jobs than last year.

Hon Mr Laughren: In what way?

Mr Phillips: The Treasurer asks in what way. There are fewer jobs in that area than last year.

Hon Mr Laughren: They're already existing—

Mr Phillips: Then the Treasurer doesn't understand the numbers, I'm afraid. There are fewer jobs in that area than last year.

The third area is the Jobs Ontario capital fund. There is no new spending in that area.

Hon Mr Laughren: Of course there is.

Mr Phillips: The Treasurer says of course there is, but you can see that last year the Treasurer planned \$3.9 billion worth of capital; this year he's planning \$3.9 billion worth of capital. There are no new jobs. The only area—

Hon Mr Laughren: Do you want more?

Mr Phillips: The Treasurer asks, "Want more?" No. What I want is for the Treasurer to acknowledge that when you talk about supporting new jobs and when you say, "We are taking immediate steps to create jobs"—

Hon Mr Laughren: You're saying "new." I'm not saying "new"; you are.

Mr Phillips: The Treasurer says he is not saying "new." Your budget, your words. The Treasurer's budget says, "We are creating three major funds to support new jobs." Those are not my words; they're your words.

When the Treasurer talks about new jobs, I honestly cannot find any money for new jobs in the budget. I think most economists would argue, and I don't think the Treasurer would disagree with us, that if you take a billion dollars out of the economy—and that, as the Treasurer will acknowledge, is what they're doing on new taxes: there's a billion dollars' worth of revenue taken out of the economy for taxes.

Hon Mr Laughren: Less than \$800 million.

Mr Phillips: Treasurer, I'm not sure you understand your own budget.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): He's a chat-box today.

Mr Phillips: I just want to make sure the Treasurer does understand his budget. Revenue changes, full-year revenue changes: \$1,091,000,000. What we've now got from the Treasurer is an acknowledgement that there are no new jobs in the budget, and any economist you'd talk to will say that not only are there no new jobs in here, but by taking a billion dollars out of the economy, you're losing 25,000 jobs. So on the second objective of this budget the Treasurer outlines, it fails, because you actually have taken more jobs out of the economy than you've created.

What we now have as we look at the objectives of the budget is that the deficit is not being controlled. As a matter of fact, the deficits over the four years of the government are actually substantially higher than in last year's budget, about which I think virtually everyone in the province said, "Listen, things are out of control; we cannot live with those sorts of deficits," and now we see deficits actually higher over the four years than we saw last year.

I think the Treasurer understands that I have an immense respect for him personally, but somehow the numbers we see in this budget raise significant concerns in our party about how accurate this budget is.

I've listed four of them, starting with the fiscal stabilization. As we listen to federal officials, they certainly

question whether you'll get more than half of it. Then there is the whole issue of this \$1 billion a year in assets sell-off. It isn't just one year, it's every year, because the Treasurer will acknowledge, I'm sure, that he has built in the same kind of revenue year after year after year. As a matter of fact, it's not only year after year: He's built about a 7% increase every single year in his revenue, so not only are you going to have to sell \$1 billion worth of assets, you're probably going to have to sell \$1 billion-plus worth of assets every single year. The Treasurer is shaking his head, but that's exactly what is in this budget.

We have some significant questions about the whole issue of the pension funds and how you are accounting for the pension funds. By your own admission, Treasurer, when you brought out your fiscal plan in January, you said these funds had to be paid, \$1 billion had to be paid to the teacher's pension. Now we find when we get your estimates you've put in less than half that amount. It's all part of your cash management program.

The fourth area is in the whole area of health care. I hope you've had discussions with the OMA and have some assurance from the OMA that these kind of numbers, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of savings, are in fact going to be realized and have some opportunity for being realized.

On the second point, that is, on your jobs point, I think by your own admission, Treasurer, there are virtually no new jobs in this budget.

Hon Mr Laughren: That's not my admission.

Mr Phillips: Well, I took you through each of the four areas, and you would acknowledge that there are no new jobs in there; in fact, by taking about a billion dollars a year of brand-new taxes out of the economy, you're going to cost 25,000 jobs.

The third objective you had here was maintaining important public services. The Treasurer will recall that there were many of us who last year said your budget was wrong. It was a very frustrating exercise for myself and I think the members of the third party, because we spent a summer trying to have hearings across the province and saying, "We think this budget is wrong." The Treasurer will recall that he came to our committee and said, "If you wanted to do what they want to do, you'd have to close 6,000 classrooms and 5,000 hospital beds" and all those sorts of things.

What we were saying a year ago was that the budget should have mentioned the word "restraint." The budget never had the word "restraint" in the whole exercise last year. Now what we've found is that a year later the Treasurer has created an enormous problem for himself, because if he'd begun the exercise most of us were urging him to get on with a year ago, he wouldn't have had to go through the tremendous wrenching that is taking place.

1600

I fault the government for that. If I were a nurse, if I were a student in a college or a university, if I were a patient in a hospital, if I were a student in an elementary or secondary school, I'd say: "Listen. A year ago it was business as usual. You can remember, last year you said, 'We've

chosen to fight the recession and we're going to spend.'" What's happened to the nurses, what's happened to the students in the schools and what's happened to the colleges and the universities is that they got one message from you a year ago and then they got a completely different message from you two months ago—actually, in many respects, well into their year. The school system had staffed up—many had signed two-year agreements—and the nurses had a two-year agreement, the second year just beginning right now, in anticipation of the government continuing its policy.

I significantly fault the government, because we said you were wrong at the time, the third party said you were wrong at the time and now you are turning on a dime. For anyone who has tried to manage an affair such as that, to suddenly go from 8% to 1%—in many respects they were well into the year. As I repeat myself, the school system had staffed the classrooms to the end of June. Probably 60% of their budget had already been committed. You said, "Tough luck; it's now 1%." I think they have a legitimate argument with the government.

There's no one in this place who doesn't recognize that we are in a recession. There's no one in this place who doesn't recognize the need for restraint. There's no one in this place who doesn't accept that our job is to get the economy going again. One way you do that is by showing you've got your finances under control.

I say to the Treasurer that last year's budget was a significant mistake. The hospitals, schools, colleges and universities are all struggling mightily to fix that mistake. Certainly, as the taxpayers right now are getting their property tax bills, I think they've a legitimate argument with the government to say that there was fiscal mismanagement over the last 12 months.

In terms of maintaining important public services, there couldn't have been a more disruptive series of financial events than there has been over the last 12 months, of saying to various institutions, "We're going to spend our way out of the recession," and then a year later coming at them and saying, "I know you're two, three or four months into your fiscal year, but we now are asking you to make dramatic reductions." Again, I don't want to be put in the position of arguing against the need for restraint—there is absolutely no question of that—but it's how the restraint has been implemented and how the maintaining of important public services has been implemented.

As we look at the three areas the Treasurer outlined for himself in terms of how he wants us to evaluate the budget, we will argue that the budget has failed in all three areas. We will be spending the next few weeks pointing out our concerns with it and why we don't think it will have met the objectives outlined by the Treasurer in his budget.

My colleagues will have significant opportunity over the next while to debate this.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Give us more, Gerry. I want to hear more.

Mr Stockwell: Keep going, Gerry. Give it to 'em.

Mr Phillips: I think I've covered what I wanted to cover, which is—

Mr Stockwell: Pick a few topics you don't want to cover.

Mr Phillips: I will talk a little bit about the jobs, then.

Mr Conway: I thought you were going to take that more comparative look at Laughren last year and Laughren this year.

Mr Phillips: No, I'll talk a little bit about the jobs, because as we look at job creation in the budget the Treasurer now acknowledges there's none.

Hon Mr Laughren: What?

Mr Phillips: I think the Treasurer will acknowledge that there are no new jobs in the budget—none. In fact, the budget will count 25,000 jobs lost. How will we work our way out?

This Friday we will see our unemployment numbers come out. Right now in the province of Ontario we have unemployment of about 10.5%. In my opinion, the unemployment rate right now in the province is more like 12.5%. There's no doubt there are at least 100,000 people who have dropped out of the labour market—just given up. So you take a 12.5% unemployment rate. The unemployment rate among young people, our 15- to 24-year age group, is closer to 25%; extremely serious numbers. Certainly as we head into the summer, the time when an awful lot of young people are leaving school, graduating from university, graduating from colleges, that number is going to rise. I know I've spoken in this House many times on youth unemployment, one of my single biggest concerns.

So as we look at the unemployment numbers, a minimum of 12.5% across the board and 25% among our young people, and this Friday the numbers will come out for the month of April, I hope finally we will see a turnaround in those numbers. If we don't, I think we are going to be really concerned because as we start into the summer months we should begin to see an upturn in the economy, and we should begin to see an upturn in the number of jobs and a downturn in the unemployment rate. Yes, the Treasurer is praying for that, and I am too, but I fear that this budget, first, did nothing really to create jobs. Second, the way we will work our way out of the unemployment situation is frankly going to be through the private sector, I think as the Treasurer himself will acknowledge, having the confidence to invest and to create jobs.

Hon Mr Laughren: And the US economy.

Mr Phillips: And the US economy, yes. My concern about the budget is that it neither creates jobs nor, most important perhaps, creates the sense of confidence out there to create jobs. So the three objectives of the budget again: to manage the deficit. It doesn't do that; as a matter of fact, we've some significant questions about whether the \$9.9-billion deficit is real. Creating jobs: it doesn't do that in a direct sense, and it doesn't send the kind of signal we want to the private sector to allow it to invest to create jobs, and it doesn't send that kind of signal to the consumer. There are only two ways I'm aware of that we are going to work our way out of this: consumer confidence and investment confidence. This budget does neither; it neither creates consumer confidence nor creates investor confidence. The third thing is the maintaining of public

services. As I say, in the health area we can already see hospital beds closing and a significant downsizing in our institutional care area.

By the way, in the health area we do not see a significant increase in our community-based care services here. We see the doctors' agreement, in less than a year, now under real attack, and it was heralded as a whole new era of relationships with the Ontario Medical Association.

So we have real questions about the budget and its effectiveness. We don't think it will achieve the three objectives the government set for itself.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Phillips moves that the resolution moved by the Treasurer on 30 April "that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government," be amended by deleting the words following the words "that this House" and adding thereto the following:

"recognizing that the 1992 budget will not help create new jobs in the province of Ontario and will cause additional job losses through new tax increases and the government's inability to control the spiralling deficit in government spending, and that the 1992 budget does nothing to encourage business and consumer confidence in the economy,

"Therefore believes that this government lacks the confidence of the House."

Are there any members who wish to participate on Mr Phillips's motion? There are no questions or comments. Are there any members who wish to participate in the debate on the amendment of Mr Phillips? The member for Carleton.

On motion by Mr Sterling, the debate was adjourned.

1610

CLASS PROCEEDINGS ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LES RECOURS COLLECTIFS

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 28, An Act respecting Class Proceedings / Loi concernant les recours collectifs.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): I believe, Mr Stockwell, you had the floor the last time we debated this issue.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I had the floor on this issue before I was so rudely interrupted last time by the gaggle of government members who were still stinging from the fact that a budget leak had materialized.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia): Did John Piper include you in his phone call?

Mr Stockwell: No, he didn't. Having said that, I seem reasonably satisfied at this time on those bills, and I yield the floor to the next speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments on Mr Stockwell's remarks?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I am disappointed, to say the least, that Mr Stockwell would choose to relinquish his position on the floor. As I recall it, last week we were just about to get a dissertation on the effect of the Attorney General's budgetary details, which had been provided to

Mr Stockwell early, on the carrying-out of the obligations on the statutory voting that we're doing.

I would ask that while people look at our \$9.9-billion deficit they also look at the plethora of promises and commitments to new programming the government is making and continues to make with respect not only to bills like Bill 28, where it is committing itself probably to new staff and new expenditures for administering these new schemes, but also for the scheme under Bill 29, about which we will speak a little later.

It seems to me that at every turn the public will have to know that the obligation of the Attorney General is to carry out the legislative mandate. It appears more and more that the numbers that have been presented by the Treasurer will prevent the Attorney General from carrying out the mandates that are given under Bill 28, and probably also the mandates required under Bill 29. As a result, the budgetary numbers that have been submitted to us—the \$9.9-billion deficit which is projected—are but a puzzle for us to unravel. In fact, we will probably find out the puzzle is much larger than the pieces that we have been given to add up at this point.

I can only express my great disappointment that the member for Etobicoke West has chosen not to go into that line of dissertation, that he has chosen not to tell us the truth about the abilities of the Attorney General really to carry out the obligations of this legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): No. He gets to respond.

The Deputy Speaker: I'm sorry. Two minutes to the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: I welcome the comments, I suppose, of the member for Bruce. Considering this government has brought forward what I consider to be a less than desirable budget this time—it is playing fast and loose with the taxes, the revenues and the dollars and cents the taxpayers put into the coffers up here.

I know the government has its 1-800 NDP CHAT line, where you can phone up and get the latest political gossip from this government. I would ask that when the people who are really interested phone that 1-800 NDP CHAT line, they request a copy of the Agenda for People. This is it right here. I'll hold it up so all can see. This is the basis on which this government ran the last election, and the promises they made are in here, dozens and dozens of promises. I find it rather interesting that what they promised and what they've delivered are two completely different things.

I don't want to leave on such a low note, so I will say that the portion of the last budget I found to be most interesting was how this government was going to take land, sell it to itself and flow revenue back to reduce the deficit. This will be interesting for two reasons. First, I think it is basically almost fraudulent, but for further information, just to make it more interesting, it's going to be interesting to see exactly how they attack this. I know the SkyDome

deal has fallen through, so they're going to buy it from themselves. Apparently they can't sell Suncor, so they're going to buy it from themselves. They're going to take the revenue and reduce their deficit. It's an insult to anybody who would offer a smoke-and-mirrors budget. It's not even decent smoke and mirrors. So I would like to see the Treasurer comment on that in future days, and I look forward to that.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in the debate? Mr Hampton has moved third reading of Bill 28.

Motion agreed to.

LAW SOCIETY AMENDMENT ACT
(CLASS PROCEEDINGS FUNDING), 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LE BARREAU
(FINANCEMENT DES RECOURS COLLECTIFS)

Mr Winninger, on behalf of Mr Hampton, moved third reading of Bill 29, An Act to amend the Law Society Act to provide for Funding to Parties to Class Proceedings / Loi modifiant la Loi sur le Barreau aux fins de l'allocation d'une aide financière aux parties à un recours collectifs.

Mr David Winninger (London South): I believe at the time of his statement in connection with Bill 28, the Attorney General also made remarks that extend to Bill 29, so I don't propose to add anything to what the Attorney General has already said in respect of Bill 29.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

1620

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I will address some of the comments the Attorney General made in this House last Monday, but before I commence my remarks, I do want to repeat that our party supports Bills 28 and 29, and we would have preferred that these two bills pass much sooner than they are presently doing.

The legislation we're dealing with today, Bill 29, which goes hand in hand with Bill 28—they're companion bills—these two bills were first introduced in June 1990 by the then Attorney General, Ian Scott. They were reintroduced by the current Attorney General in December 1990, essentially in identical form.

I want to underline that both opposition parties would have given first, second and third reading to this legislation in December 1990. This legislation was very important to the public of Ontario and to the legal profession of Ontario. The government waited one full year to bring in second reading on November 18, 1991. We are still trying to find out why there was this significant delay, and I am going to address that again in a minute.

Last Monday, when we were finally dealing with third reading, the Attorney General made some introductory remarks which, quite frankly, took the opposition parties by surprise, because we had long been waiting for this legislation.

This legislation is very important. What it does is provide to the public of Ontario the opportunity to bring class proceedings against defendants. For example, in an inci-

dent such as the Mississauga train derailment, one or two individuals could institute action on behalf of all the public who suffered from that accident. It would give remedies to people who suffer environmental damage in a way that doesn't exist in Ontario today, in a way that's existed in Quebec for the past 10 years and in most jurisdictions in the United States for 25 years.

I want to refer to some of the reasons the Attorney General is again delaying implementation of these bills. I almost feel embarrassed to want to debate it at this point, because we do want to see them get voted. It will be voted today, but I want to take time to explain to the public of Ontario, to explain to the legal profession in Ontario, what might be happening with this Attorney General and with this ministry. But before I do that, I want to address several of the comments that were made by the Attorney General with respect to this legislation.

I will read the explanatory notes for Bill 29; they are very brief:

"The bill amends the Law Society Act to provide for the class proceedings fund and establish the class proceedings committee. The class proceedings fund is to be administered by the Law Foundation of Ontario.

"A plaintiff to a class proceeding may apply to the class proceedings committee for financial support from the class proceedings fund in respect of the plaintiff's disbursements related to the proceeding. The Bill sets out criteria for the committee to consider in deciding whether to fund a plaintiff. A defendant to a class proceeding is entitled to payment from the class proceedings fund in respect of costs awards made in the proceeding in the defendant's favour against a plaintiff who has received support from the fund.

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council is given regulation making powers relating to the class proceedings fund."

Last Monday, the Attorney General, in introducing Bill 28, addressed some comments also to Bill 29, which we have just begun to debate for third reading. He indicates, and I am quoting from Hansard of April 27, 1992:

"A number of steps must be taken before Bill 28 can be proclaimed. I should mention that there is a companion bill along with Bill 28. It is Bill 29, An Act to amend the Law Society Act to provide for Funding to Parties to Class Proceedings....

"As I mentioned, a number of steps must be taken before Bill 28 and Bill 29 can be proclaimed. The first step is to design the class proceedings fund. Part and parcel of this legislation is to establish a fund for the purposes of funding class proceedings."

If I can just digress from the minister's quote from last Monday, it is my understanding that the law society has already established such a fund, that it has set aside and allocated the \$500,000 contemplated by this legislation to provide the funding that's contemplated. There is no reason, no rationale, why the Attorney General last week was saying that this is the reason for delaying implementation of the fund. In effect, the fund already exists.

I will go back to the Attorney General's quote:

"Part of that step will be the need to establish an advisory committee to develop the structure, administration

and procedures for the fund. Second, we need to select members for the advisory committee. We believe there should be representation from the Law Foundation of Ontario. We believe that actuarial expertise is required and would be helpful here. We want to ensure that we're able to determine how the fund can be made self-funding through the appropriate levies from damage awards and settlements. The advisory committee will have to resolve a number of issues relating to the fund before we're able to put it into place."

There's been a committee in place for years since this was introduced in 1990. Between first and second reading there was a full year for the committee to look at this type of fine-tuning of the implementation of the legislation. We do not have one good solid reason why the government didn't prepare in advance to implement this legislation in a manner that would be efficient and responsive to the legal profession and the needs of the public.

Perhaps I can continue with the Attorney General in Hansard of last week:

"Next we'll have to deal with adapting the rules of court. Under Bill 28 the rules of court do apply to class proceedings. Consideration will need to be given to whether it is necessary to amend any of the rules to accommodate class proceedings or whether forms of notice for class proceedings should be added to the rules." Again, they've had a year and a half to two years to put that together, knowing full well that these two bills, 28 and 29, would become law.

The Attorney General continued:

"After that, and this is all part and parcel of the nuts and bolts which some members may want to discuss or allude to here, we will have to of course consult with the Law Society of Upper Canada. Class proceedings raise certain ethical issues, such as the potential conflict of interest between the lawyer's duty to the representative plaintiff and to other members of the class.

"Finally, one of the issues which will be germane here will be judicial education. Class proceedings will mean a major change for the judiciary. There may be concerns about the impact of this legislation upon the judiciary. The Advisory Committee on Class Action Reform, which did the general discussion of the issue, recommended that special efforts be made to educate the judiciary about the new procedures. We need to be prepared to assist the judiciary in any judicial education programs or other measures that the judiciary initiates for its members."

I want to refer to something else at this point. Again last Monday the Attorney General was giving reasons—I would call them excuses—why he has no intention of proclaiming these two bills early. Among those is education of the legal profession and the judiciary.

I have in my hand a copy of the Ontario Reports of March 20, 1992. This issue, which is produced, effectively, by the Law Society of Upper Canada, has a two-page spread advertisement. This two-page spread advertisement by the Law Society of Upper Canada says, "Ontario's New Class Proceedings Act: Chair: Michael G. Cochrane, Scott and Aylen; Keynote Speaker: the Honourable Howard

Hampton, Attorney General of Ontario; Tuesday, April 14, 1992."

It indicates the substance of what is in these two bills. Then it goes on: "For serious civil litigators, attendance is a must. Distinguished Faculty"—and they list the faculty here—"Ian Binnie QC, McCarthy Tétrault; the Honourable Howard Hampton, Attorney General of Ontario; Kenneth E. Howie QC, Thomson, Rogers; the Honourable Mr Justice R. S. Montgomery, Ontario Court of Justice (General Division); Leah Price, associate director, litigation, crown law office—civil; Timothy D. Ray, Beament, Green (Ottawa); Ian Scott QC, Gowling, Strathy and Henderson"—former Attorney General—"Neal J. Smitheman, Fasken Campbell Godfrey."

On the other page—I am not reciting or quoting the whole document, but I do want to make reference to several other points: "Are You Prepared? Keynote address: the Honourable Howard Hampton, Attorney General of Ontario; A Judicial Perspective on Class Proceedings." This presentation is by the Honourable Mr Justice R. S. Montgomery, Ontario Court of Justice (General Division).

1630

Another section here indicates, "Ethical and Other Considerations in Class Proceedings in Ontario, Kenneth E. Howie, QC, Thomson, Rogers; Ian Scott, QC, Gowling, Strathy and Henderson"—the former Attorney General—"and the Honourable Mr Justice R. S. Montgomery, Ontario Court of Justice (General Division)."

The reason I'm bringing this to the attention of the House is that this advertisement was printed on March 20, 1992; therefore, all the organizational and all the preliminary work for this particular type of legal education had to have been accomplished towards the end of 1991 and into early 1992.

Yet the Attorney General stood in his place last week and said we have to educate the judiciary. We have seminars already being given where the judiciary is in fact assisting in the education of the legal profession; we have the former Attorney General and the Attorney General, in an ad of March 20, 1992, participating. Yet we have last week's Hansard, whereby the Attorney General is saying to this Legislature, to the public and to the legal profession, "We need more time to pull this together." All the time it was being put together, the year that passed between first and second reading, all the time putting together these legal education courses involving the judiciary and the legal profession, it would have taken one person in the ministry drafting regulations so that they would be ready, and drafting an application form, because one of the reasons given for the delay was that they need time to draft an application to obtain funding for the costs as provided in Bill 29. The Attorney General is simply not credible when he brings in these delays.

I want to go on and refer to some additional quotes of the Attorney General last week.

"Finally, the legislation entails a number of regulations, specifically regulations that will have to deal with the class proceedings fund, and there may be some discussion here about what ought to go in some of those regulations."

With a committee in place for close to three years, with the judiciary participating in legal education seminars with the legal profession, with the former Attorney General participating in these seminars, it is inconceivable that the Attorney General could be so irresponsible that he would bring these bills forward for third reading and royal assent and not have draft regulations prepared, but I am led to believe that it is the case: The Attorney General has not even anticipated doing draft regulations for these bills when in fact he's calling the legal profession and the judiciary together to discuss these bills in detail and to learn about these bills. I think it is incompetence on the part of the Attorney General; if it's not incompetence, then perhaps there is another agenda.

I want to address for a minute or two what that other agenda might be. It is very interesting to note that the cabinet document that was leaked here last week had the cabinet minutes relating to estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General, and I want to quote from it. It says on the document, "Confidential Cabinet Document," and I can understand why perhaps the government wanted to keep it confidential for quite some time.

In the context of the Law Foundation of Ontario funding, which Bill 29 refers to, I will repeat: "The Bill amends the Law Society Act to provide for the class proceedings fund and establish the class proceedings committee. The class proceedings fund is to be administered by the Law Foundation of Ontario." The Law Foundation of Ontario provides the funding.

Now I want to refer to the confidential cabinet document that refers to law foundation revenues. The document, talking about Management Board, says: "The board did not approve...declines in revenue from the law foundation. In addition, the board directed the ministry to seek alternative revenues or expenditure reductions to manage any further declines in law foundation revenues."

Law foundation revenues fund the legal aid system. The Attorney General has told the law society that it wants the law society to take up more of the funding for legal aid certificates in the province of Ontario. The revenues for the law foundation come from interest earned on lawyers' trust accounts. Of course, as real estate practices diminish because of the recession, interest on these trust accounts diminishes and the funding available to legal aid goes down. As it's gone down, it's put pressure on the province to come up with additional funding for legal aid. We know the Attorney General has had discussions with the law society and has indicated that it must come up with more funding for legal aid certificates.

The only significant other funding that is available is the \$500,000 that has been set aside by the law foundation to fund class proceedings. The law society has been saying to the Attorney General: "We don't want to eat into the funds for class proceedings, because we have separated those. We want them there, in effect, for the purpose for which we've allocated them, and that is to fund Bill 29."

There's a lot of uncertainty around the funding for the law foundation. I believe that the Attorney General, in making the statements he did last week that I read from Hansard, is trying to buy time. He's trying to buy time to

put pressure on the law society to come forward with more dollars for legal aid funding.

What is absolutely significant as well when we look at the estimates the government was forced to table with the budget last week—this is extremely significant, and I believe the law society and the legal profession in the province of Ontario should be aware of these numbers. I have in my hand a Law Society of Upper Canada legal aid bulletin dated April 1992. This bulletin basically underlines what most of the people in Ontario know, that there's been a real drain on the fund because of an increase in legal aid certificates particularly. I quote from the bulletin, "The plan estimates that the current high demand for legal aid will continue through 1992-93 with a 25% increase in applications received and certificates granted." They're projecting, in addition to a very major increase—I think it was somewhere in the order of 28% this past year—a further 25% increase in drawings against legal aid funding.

When we look at the estimates from the Ministry of the Attorney General that were tabled last week, we see that the budget item dealing with legal aid certificates has been increased by some \$93 million. That is a 42% increase. I think that's good news for the legal profession and it's good news for the law society; on the other hand, all the time that the confidential documents were being prepared and the Attorney General had in his hip pocket a 42% increase in legal aid funding, representing over \$93 million for the 1992-93 year, he was trying to do a hammer job on the law society. Part of that hammer job is dragging his feet on Bills 28 and 29.

1640

I think the actions of the Attorney General in this have been absolutely duplicitous. It is amazing what these numbers say to the members of this Legislature and to the legal profession and the public of Ontario, who (1) are concerned about what's happening to legal aid in the province, and (2) have been long awaiting Bills 28 and 29 so they would have better access to our courts and the judicial system.

I don't know what is going on in the Ministry of the Attorney General. I don't know what their agenda is. We see in secret documents \$93 million more allocated to legal aid, which is somewhere over 40%; we see the law society's own projections saying it's only a 25% increase. At the same time the leaked documents indicate that the ministry should continue to do a hammer job on the law society with respect to the law foundation revenues and the law foundation fund.

I look forward to the Attorney General coming before a committee of this Legislature to deal with the estimates of his ministry, because I believe he has some very serious, fundamental questions to answer with respect to these leaked estimates documents, not the least of which is the fact—if I can find it here—that where there is tremendous financial pressure in support and custody orders enforcement or, as it is now called, the family support plan, the biggest problem and the biggest criticism is lack of funding, lack of personnel, to implement what most people think is an improvement in the system. The reason it is

backlogged and people cannot receive service is thought to be lack of funding.

Last year's 1991-92 estimates indicate the family support plan, or SCOE, as it then was, was allocated \$25,284,000. In fact, they actually spent \$18.8 million. More than \$7 million was available to fund the SCOE that this government wasn't efficient enough to put into the system to help people who need help. That's number one. Number two, the \$25,284,000 in the estimates for 1991-92 is decreasing by close to \$1 million.

I look forward to the Attorney General coming before whichever committee he will be to discuss the estimates. I think the Attorney General and this government have a lot to answer for, for not providing access to justice for all the people who could use class proceedings legislation. If this government were serious or efficient, that legislation could have been in place in November 1990 with the unanimous consent of everyone in this House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Are there any questions and/or comments?

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I want to compliment my colleague from Ottawa—which riding is it?

Mr Chiarelli: West.

Mrs Caplan: From Ottawa West. There are so many ridings in the Ottawa area, to keep them all straight is sometimes a little difficult, so I do apologize to the member for Ottawa West. Not only does he represent his constituents extremely well and very effectively in this House, but his grasp of this piece of legislation and his important criticism of it has been an important part of this debate.

He points out, quite rightly, that this legislation could have been brought in by this government some 18 months ago. What I had expected, and I know he did, was that we would see that as part of the agenda during the first six months, because it made so much sense.

He also rightly points out the concerns he has about what's happening with the Ministry of the Attorney General. I think the points he makes on this piece of legislation will be part of the focus of the public during what I hope will be extensive public discussion at committee.

I want to say to you, Mr Speaker, and to the member for Ottawa West that this piece of legislation and what it is designed to achieve has been unnecessarily delayed by the Attorney General, Mr Hampton. I believe the reason for that may be because of the new Attorney General's inability to run his ministry effectively and work with the very professional civil service that's there. I know I was quite disappointed to hear about the problems he was having in his ability to communicate and work with his former Deputy Attorney General. I am hoping those problems have been resolved.

The fact that this piece of legislation has been tabled may be an example that we can start to see some very important work which has been on the books for quite some time finally dealt with. The people of the province are waiting for it. The member for Ottawa West makes a very good point.

The Acting Speaker: Are there further questions and/or comments?

Mr Winninger: In brief response to the commentary of the member for Ottawa West and the member for Oriole, I think it was made quite clear by the Attorney General in his statement on third reading why there was a necessary period of delay. The report of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Class Action Reform, a thick document in itself, had 32 pages of recommendations in regard to the implementation of class proceedings in this province. I think it's incumbent upon the Attorney General to consider very carefully how such an innovative scheme for litigation can be properly implemented. This is a scheme of class action proceedings unlike what we've customarily dealt with in our courts of law, and it's important that it be done right.

The Attorney General has pointed out some of the reasons there's been a modest delay in implementing the legislation. He has indicated that the advisory committee had to develop the structure, the administration and the procedures for the fund, and that actuarial expertise was required to determine how the fund can be made self-funding through appropriate levies from damage awards and settlement funds. He has further indicated the need for regulations dealing with several issues, not only procedures but also limits and tariffs for payments and conditions of awards of costs. Forms have to be developed and considerable attention has to be given to the manner in which that fund can best operate.

I will conclude by saying that the delays experienced in implementing the legislation were necessary delays and certainly were unlike the kinds of delays we experienced before last Christmas through opposition tactics. If the opposition hadn't delayed our proceedings, we might have introduced this for third reading.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? Seeing none, the honourable member for Ottawa West has two minutes in reply.

Mr Chiarelli: One can only wonder what was happening in the Ministry of the Attorney General between December 17, 1990, and November 18, 1991. One can only wonder why this government wanted to send the bills to committee when no one had amendments to propose, when effectively no one wanted to come before the committee and make a submission. The Hansard of the committee will show that upon cross-examination by the critic from the Conservative Party, they went out and tried to solicit a couple of briefs before the standing committee on administration of justice in order to further delay this legislation.

If any regulations, any application forms, had to be prepared, they could have been prepared between December 1990 and third reading. Why weren't they? They still haven't answered that. I'm absolutely dumfounded that the Attorney General and his staff could participate with the Law Society of Upper Canada educational programs, which had to be in preparation a good eight to nine months ago, yet they couldn't have had one of their legislative counsel in the ministry prepare some draft regulations and a draft application form. They didn't do it, and they didn't do it for one of two reasons: They are incompetent, or they

have a different agenda they're not talking about. There's no other option. With that I rest my case.

1650

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on the third reading of Bill 29.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I'm going to be very brief today in indicating our support for Bill 29, as we indicated support for Bill 28.

I hear the concern of the Liberal Party with regard to the delay in bringing forward this bill and the necessary regulations. The only thing I would say is that I think, of all the faults which I have witnessed with regard to complicated legislation, legislation which is somewhat groundbreaking, it's perhaps more prudent to travel slowly than fast.

I was, for instance, very much upset when the past Attorney General brought very substantial court reform before this Legislature in the last Parliament. I felt their particular attitude was that they didn't require a pacing for that legislation to go through the Legislature, and as a result the former Attorney General, Mr Scott, had to amend that bill before the year was out, I believe three or four times. Therefore I don't agree with his criticism of the government, although I'm a member of the opposition, with regard to this. I would rather see the government get it right, and perhaps if it has to take a little bit longer, we'll just have to wait a little bit longer. I think the legislation is important and it's important to get it right.

We have had the exact opposite experience with regard to the Minister of Citizenship, who has brought before this Legislature Bill 74, which is the Advocacy Act. Notwithstanding differences as to how it should look, I think their whole approach on that one has been the exact opposite of their approach on these two bills. With regard to Bill 74, it's my understanding that the government will be shortly introducing 200 amendments to Bill 74, the Advocacy Act. When a government brings forward a piece of legislation and it has to amend it 200 times before we get to third reading, then there's something wrong with its process and its system.

I believe this legislation on class actions has been thought out much better than the Advocacy Act. In fact, when a government brings forward a bill like Bill 74 and says it is going to amend it 200 times, it's going to be faced with a very rough ride from our party. We will require basically the legislative process to start from step one again, because we just can't see the legislation being amended that significantly and not allowing all the interest groups, the interested parties, the citizens of Ontario, to have an opportunity to comment when there is such a radical alteration of legislation.

I want to say in summary, as I promised to be brief on this, that Bills 28 and 29 have gone through a long consultation process, but the Attorney General should be given an opportunity to do it right and we would, generally speaking in our party, prefer that there be a slow pacing of legislation, particularly within our justice system where you are creating new rights for people. Other people are having to take on new obligations. We're going through a

method of funding these class actions. We are in a very, very tough recessionary time and we would not like to see the government throw additional burdens upon the taxpayers.

We look forward to the Attorney General paying some attention to this legislation and carrying it forward, but we ask him also to be cautious and bring forward something he has consulted properly on with the parties who will be using the legislation, the parties who will benefit from the legislation and the parties who will be burdened by the legislation. We're glad to offer our support and hope the Attorney General can push along as speedily as it is prudent to do so.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Chiarelli: I want to comment on the member for Carleton's comments. First of all, I would encourage him to read the Hansard of the standing committee on administration of justice of last November, when this issue was dealt with, particularly on the comments of the member for Willowdale, the Conservative critic for the Ministry of the Attorney General, Mr Harnick.

I think he would concur with the comments I made at that time. I would encourage him to read in Hansard of last Monday the comments of the Conservative critic, the member for Willowdale, who basically said the identical thing I said here today and agreed with me last week. Although he had some criticism for the previous Liberal government as well, he did agree that the delays that were taken by this government were unacceptable. He was not very happy at all.

I guess the Conservative caucus is split on this particular issue, because the member for Carleton's comments are diametrically opposed not only to Mr Harnick's comments but also to the comments that were made in this House last Monday by Mr Stockwell, the member for Etobicoke West.

The member for Carleton did not address why there was no action on this bill from first reading to second reading, over the period of a year. He did not address the issue as to why the government insisted on sending it to committee and ended up filibustering its own bill.

I respect the comments of the member for Carleton. He has experience in cabinet in the justice portfolio. He is an experienced lawyer and his comments should be taken under advisement. However, his comments were applicable 18 months ago. We've been waiting for 18 months.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments.

Mrs Caplan: The member for Carleton refers to the legislative process. The point he has attempted to make is that it's important to go slowly during that process. I think it's important for the people of Ontario who are watching this debate to understand the legislative process as it exists today.

It is possible for the government to issue a green paper which is usually an options paper, a white paper which is government policy, draft legislation, and then we have first reading of a piece of legislation which usually outlines very briefly the intent of the legislation through a statement by

the minister. We all know that first reading is usually, although not always, automatic in this House.

Second reading affords the opportunity for debate in principle. Following the second reading vote, the bill can then be sent to committee for full public hearings, or if it is considered a matter of housekeeping it could just proceed to committee of the whole House for some minor change and amendment.

In committee, whether it follows full public hearings or not, we know that both substantive and housekeeping amendments can be placed and that generally the legislative process is quite a long process if it does involve those kinds of committee hearings.

I would say to the member for Carleton that this legislation, Bills 28 and 29, went through that extensive discussion process and consultation in advance of the presentation of the legislation, as he referred to a report and document. I think significant amendments during the committee process often will suggest that process has been good in that the public has been heard and that the government is willing to make changes, although I would share his concern if in fact the amendments fundamentally alter the principles of the bill. I would suggest that the legislative process safeguards ensuring the public interest.

1700

Mr Winninger: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Carleton for his thoughtful and temperate wisdom on the subject of the Class Proceedings Act. As he was a former practising barrister and solicitor and also parliamentary assistant to a former Attorney General, I know he's sensitive to the manner in which legislation is implemented. Certainly this is far-reaching legislation.

At a recent program sponsored by the Law Society of Upper Canada the former Attorney General, Ian Scott, now of Toronto's Gowling, Strathy and Henderson, struck a cautionary note and said: "The burden on the lawyer who acts for the representative plaintiff is a legal burden the likes of which we've never seen before. At our firm," said Mr Scott, "there's going to be a rule that no class action can be taken on without the permission of the management committee, because while there are all kinds of precautions built into the statute, you know that if something goes awry the representative plaintiff is going to say, 'Well, I relied on Mr Scott; he prepared the plan.' And if you make a mistake even with the court approvals that are built into the plan, there's big payola down the road for the person who discovers it."

I think not only the members of the practising bar will appreciate the caution that the Attorney General is taking in implementing this legislation, but also the consumers who stand to be protected by our cautionary approach and certainly the judiciary who have to deal with complex motions asking for status to proceed on a class proceeding basis.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant. Seeing none, the honourable member for Carleton has two minutes.

Mr Sterling: I want to thank three members for commenting on my very brief comments.

I respect the member for Ottawa West with regard to his knowledge about this issue because I think he's taken a great interest in it and I listened to some of his speech last week with regard to it. I do want to say to him, though, and all members of this Legislature, that I believe a healthy parliamentary system requires that people, when they come to a debate, throw upon their own knowledge, their own views with regard to a particular matter. Talking about process, I don't think that any party has to be rock solid and in one position or another position with regard to as minor an issue as process with regard to whether a bill is going fast enough or not going fast enough.

Our party is solidly behind, as a unit, both these pieces of legislation. I disagree with some of the comments which were made by the member for Etobicoke West and by the member for Willowdale with regard to the pacing of this legislation, but so be it. I think it's good that within our party we at least allow party members to express different opinions in this Legislature. We would hope that members within this Legislature who would express different opinions than their party colleagues would not be chastised; there would not be this silly comment that your party is breaking up over a small issue like the pacing of legislation.

I look at it as a strength within our party that we can disagree with each other, we can express those in an open forum like this, but that when it's necessary we do come together, as we most certainly do on most issues, and act as a party in unison.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on the third reading of Bill 29? Seeing none, could I call on the parliamentary assistant and member for London South for a wrapup?

Mr Winninger: I would suggest that we've had helpful input from all members in the House in regard to both Bill 28 and Bill 29. I think the debate has been a fulsome debate. I think it's time we proceed to conclude the implementation of Bill 29. Therefore I would ask for third reading of the bill at this time.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Hampton has moved third reading of Bill 29. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

House in committee of the whole.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS CONCERNANT L'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION ET LA PROTECTION DE LA VIE PRIVÉE

Consideration of Bill 136, An Act to amend certain Acts relating to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy / Loi modifiant certaines lois concernant l'accès à l'information et la protection de la vie privée.

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I'd like to move an amendment—

The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve): We are looking now for comments or questions on any sections of the bill, prior to the moving.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): On a point of order, Mr Chair: I would like to know, as opposition critic for Management Board, who's carrying this for the government, and will there be a statement as we begin committee of the whole proceedings?

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable parliamentary assistant will be carrying on behalf of the minister, it is my understanding.

Mr Sutherland: Yes, Mr Chair. Could I have permission to have staff come on?

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member for Oxford has asked—do we have unanimous consent? Agreed.

Mrs Caplan: On a point of order, Mr Chair: While the parliamentary assistant to the Chairman of Management Board is preparing, I would like to just point out that this is the first time the member for Oxford will be carrying a piece of legislation in this House, and I would encourage my colleagues on this side to be gentle.

The Second Deputy Chair: I am sure that those words of wisdom will be considered quite adequately.

Section 1:

The Second Deputy Chair: We will now be dealing with section 1. It's the Chair's understanding that there are no amendments to section 1. I therefore ask: Is it the pleasure of the House that section 1 stand as part of Bill 136? Agreed?

Section 1 agreed to.

1710

Section 2:

The Second Deputy Chair: Mr Sutherland moves that section 40.1 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, as set out in subsection 2(1) of the bill, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"Non-disclosure prevails

"(4) Despite subsection 63(1), the requirements in this section that information received from the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission not be disclosed prevail over any other law."

Mr Sutherland: The proposed amendment to Bill 136 is intended to ensure that the non-disclosure provision prevails over any other law. It will remove any ambiguity created by subsection 63(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which allows for disclosure of confidential information as required by law.

Mrs Caplan: We will not be supporting this amendment because I believe it is not in the public interest. I think it also runs contrary to the principle of the public's right to know, freedom of information as well as protection of personal privacy. I recall when the original bill was tabled, I believe it was in 1986, and this is an amendment to that original freedom of information and protection of personal privacy legislation.

It's our belief that the need for individuals and for the public to be aware of hazardous information and materials is significant. I would say this amendment runs contrary to the New Democratic Party's and the NDP government's commitment to bring forward whistle-blowing legislation.

Whistle-blowing legislation in fact would require the public disclosure of information that was in the public interest and would safeguard public servants who brought that information to public attention.

I'm a little concerned and distressed that the parliamentary assistant and the government are bringing forward a piece of legislation and a proposed amendment which would further hamper workers from getting the information from their employers, and further, if I understand the amendment correctly, it would hamper the rights of public servants to disclose that information even if they believed it was in the public interest to do so. So I would ask the parliamentary assistant to clarify that, and if in fact this is what that amendment does, we will not be supporting it. In fact, we are placing an amendment, as soon as this one is disposed of, which would encourage and save harmless any public servant. It would require that information be made public if it was in the public interest to do so.

The point I would make on this particular amendment before I sit down is that freedom of information legislation is about openness; it's about accountability; it's about the public interest and the override of the public interest to know and to have information. The flip side and the balance to freedom of information is protection of personal privacy, and the freedom of information and protection of personal privacy legislation is supposed to be designed to achieve that balance. There should be an override in that legislation, as I appreciate it, to make sure the public interest is the one that is always served.

The concern I have about the legislation, the amendments that have been tabled by the NDP government, is that they seem to be doing the opposite of everything that the NDP—the New Democratic Party, the New Democratic government—has been talking about, not only for many years but even since it has arrived in government. I'd like the parliamentary assistant to explain how the promise of whistle-blowing legislation and amendments that close down and refuse information is consistent, or if it is not consistent, how it can be supported and brought forward by the government at this time.

I'll have more to say about it, but it seems to me that in fact this runs contrary to everything the NDP said it stood for when it came to freedom of information and the public's right to know, particularly about hazardous workplace environments.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on the government amendment? The parliamentary assistant.

Mr Sutherland: In response to the remarks from the member for Oriole, the amendment is only a clarification. Currently the public cannot be aware of this information without this amendment coming forward. We cannot get the trade secret information from the federal government because of the current provisions that are now in there.

We're also a little bit surprised, because there was certainly support for this bill expressed by the opposition party, and to this process.

Mrs Caplan: I would point out that it was in fact a Liberal government that brought in the freedom of information and protection of personal privacy legislation. That's something I'm particularly proud of. I'm expressing

today my concerns over the amendments that have been tabled by the New Democratic government. It's their policy and their amendments I'm expressing concern about today.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): This brings forward an interesting point. Having had a little bit of history with the freedom of information and privacy act, I want to draw the parliamentary assistant's attention particularly to subsection 11(1) of the freedom of information act. Under that section it says—I'll paraphrase it—that despite anything else in the freedom of information act, despite any privacy provisions, if a head of a department—which means effectively the minister or anybody acting for the minister—gets into his hands information which he considers it is in the public interest to reveal and “the record reveals a grave environmental, health or safety hazard to the public,” he must reveal that immediately. Therefore, if he doesn't, he puts the government in legal jeopardy. Okay?

Now, no other provision in the freedom of information act requires the government to disclose information without being asked for it. The freedom of information act basically says to a minister, “If you are asked under the freedom of information act for a document, you must produce it.” Subsection 11(1) is the only section within the act that does this. It's the only section within any freedom of information act I'm aware of that does it. I know that because it was at my instance that it was first put in, to my draft bill in 1984, and was carried forward by the Liberals when it was brought forward.

The question to the parliamentary assistant, of course, is, does this section exonerate the official who gets this information in his hand? I don't care from where. It doesn't matter whether it came from private industry, another government source or whatever. That's the way subsection 11(1) reads now. If you get that information and you deem it a public hazard to not disclose it and you don't disclose it, then as a citizen I can sue the government of Ontario for not disclosing it.

Does this amendment to Bill 136, that in spite of any other law there is no duty to disclose, mean that if you get information on hazardous materials from the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission and you deem it is going to be hazardous to the public not to divulge that—are you telling us by this amendment that you don't have to divulge it?

1720

Mr Sutherland: My understanding is that once you get the information you can divulge it, but only subject to the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Part of this amendment is a requirement in terms of what the federal government is demanding regarding issues around trademark protection of products coming forward. It's our understanding that they could access that information if they thought it was going to be helpful in the investigation process of a hazardous material and use it as part of their investigation, but in terms of the federal govern-

ment requirement, this amendment is so we can have access to that information to carry out those opportunities.

Mr Sterling: When I was the minister responsible for this legislation over a four-year period, I heard this argument time and time again, that in order for us to get information as a government from whichever body—another government body, a police force, a foreign police force, a citizen or whatever—it should be excluded from the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, that there shouldn't be this obligation on the government to reveal the information it had received from this other source.

Can you tell me if the last three words of this amendment, “any other law,” apply to the freedom of information act? As I read it, they would. Why do you need those words if it would be subject to the freedom of information act?

Mr Sutherland: Again, I would respond that this amendment being proposed is not changing the intent of the original bill. It is to clarify what was believed to be some ambiguity.

Mr Sterling: That's fine and dandy. We have created a law in this Legislature before, and I want you to tell me straight out, Mr Parliamentary Assistant, and I'm willing to ask you as long as the day goes along, does this or does it not affect the situation I'm asking about? Because you are evading a direct answer, I assume I am correct in my assumption that a government official—I don't care where he is, what branch of government—will not be obligated to divulge this information if he deems it is harmful to the public to divulge it.

Mr Sutherland: It's my understanding that this will still override section 11 of the act.

Mr Sterling: So you're telling me that my worst fears are correct, is that right? If this overrides section 11 of the freedom of information act, then there is no longer an obligation on the Minister of Labour—I would assume the other legislation comes on—once he has this information in his hands, to divulge it to the public even if he deems it a hazard to the general welfare of the public. You're lifting him from that obligation, is that correct?

Mr Sutherland: You're talking about disclosure of information to the public. Because of the restrictions placed by the federal government currently, the problem under the act is that we're not able to access all that information now that we need to carry out investigations under the act. We don't have access to all the specifics due to the protections afforded by federal trademark legislation, and this would allow us to have a better handle on what was made up to carry out an investigation.

Mr Sterling: As this conversation progresses, I get more and more concerned about the fact that we are not protecting the public, as we tried to protect it under section 11 of the freedom of information act. Maybe I could ask the parliamentary assistant, did you approach the federal government and say: “Look, we have the freedom of information act. Do you object to a minister standing up and revealing information he may have received from the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission if

in fact it's a danger to the public under section 11?" Have you asked the federal government whether it objects to that?

Mr Sutherland: Again, the federal government has asked for this amendment in terms of clarification, because it felt that as worded before, it was somewhat ambiguous.

Mr Sterling: When you start talking about two fairly complex pieces of legislation, I don't have the degree of comfort I perhaps would like to get from the parliamentary assistant that they have explored all avenues in order to allow subsection 11(1) of the freedom of information act to live on over and above the requirements I think are necessary in order to protect the public.

If an official sitting in an office in the Ministry of Labour gets information from this source and deems that it's in the interests of the public to reveal that there's a health hazard, a real safety problem with regard to what may happen if he doesn't reveal that information, I don't think the government should be let off the hook under this piece of legislation and allowed to be quiet about it, because section 11 wants the government to be responsible.

If the government discovers that there's an environment problem, if it discovers there's a health problem or a safety hazard, then there's an obligation on the government today to reveal that to the public as soon as possible. If they don't, the public can sue them for not revealing it.

I am not going to give them an amendment here today which will allow a Minister of Labour to keep his mouth shut about some health hazard he has learned about from a source of information. I don't care where that information comes from. If the minister has it, then he has to have an obligation to tell the public about that health hazard.

Mrs Caplan: This exactly goes back to the point I raised when we began this debate. I am not sure the member for Oxford, as parliamentary assistant to the Chairman of Management Board, fully comprehends perhaps what the impact of this amendment may be as far as the legislation is concerned. I have not heard a clear response to the concerns I and the member for Carleton have raised around the obligation of the government to disclose when it is in the public interest.

The whole principle of the freedom of information and protection of personal privacy legislation was to require the government to be open and inform the public when there is an overriding public interest. The public's right and need to know is guaranteed by the existing piece of legislation.

Can you stand in your place today and assure this House that this amendment does not change that obligation of the minister and the government to inform the public when there is a public interest override?

Mr Sutherland: I apologize if I haven't been clear, but no, it doesn't change that obligation; the hazardous material involved, whatever, would still be disclosed. The protection, I guess, is under the composition. The ingredients are already there and people can access that information. The trade secret stuff is the composition that goes up there. So, no, it would not change that obligation.

1730

Mrs Caplan: If the parliamentary assistant could take us through the steps of how that would happen, I would appreciate that.

Mr Sutherland: From my understanding, the ingredients are already listed on all the materials. They have to be listed by law. The federal Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission is the one that deals with the question of the composition of how these ingredients are composed to make the actual product, so that is the process this amendment is coming forward to clarify. As I said, it does not change the original intent of the bill and it would not remove any obligation for disclosure, as your concern has raised and hopefully the member for Carleton's concern has raised.

Mr Sterling: Perhaps the parliamentary assistant could tell me what information he receives under subsection 46(2) of the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act.

Mr Sutherland: I'm sorry, Mr Chair, I didn't catch his question. Could he repeat it, please?

Mr Sterling: The section he has attempted to amend refers to—I've got to get my glasses on so I can read the darn thing—"Subject to subsection (2), all information obtained by an officer or employee of the ministry from the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission under subsection 46(2)." What do you receive under subsection 46(2)?

Mr Sutherland: You receive the composition, or what is defined as the trade secret—the recipe for making up the product.

Mr Sterling: Do you receive any information under that section about the toxicity or what other characteristics of the compound might be?

Mr Sutherland: Generally it's how the product is made. That's what's protected under the trade secret, so that is the information they would be able to access.

Mr Sterling: Because we've got into the debate on this, unfortunately, I'd like to see a copy of subsection 46(2) of the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act. I'll attempt to find that out in the next few moments before we vote on this, Mr Chairman.

Mrs Caplan: Pending the information by the parliamentary assistant, it would seem to me that they have proposed that this amendment is clarification of what is already existing and would therefore fall into the category, from the government's point of view, as not a significant amendment or a significant departure from the principles of the bill.

If that is the case, then I would withdraw my objections specifically, but I would like some assurance from the parliamentary assistant that the government will be accepting the amendment we'll be proposing which would clarify the right of civil servants to be protected should they disclose that which is in the public interest, and it would follow the commitment from the parliamentary assistant that in fact the obligation to disclose remains. It would give me great

comfort, and I'd have more comfort supporting this amendment.

Just to tell the parliamentary assistant what we'll be moving at the appropriate time, it will be an amendment to subsection 40.1(2). We'll add a clause (c) that says:

"(c) any person or body if the officer or employee of the ministry determines that the information is of such a nature that its disclosure could reasonably be expected to be in the interest of the health and welfare of the public."

That is a friendly amendment and compatible with the legislation. It would give me comfort now if I knew you would support this. I could then withdraw my concerns about what you're proposing as a housekeeping amendment and then allow the legislation to move forward.

I think it's a reasonable request, since you've told me that your amendment would not remove the obligation. My amendment, the Liberal opposition amendment, would further clarify the legislation to ensure that the public interest would be served. If I had your assurance that this was the case, then I think we could move forward more expeditiously with this amendment.

Mr Sutherland: Part of the problem with that is that the member for Oriole has put forward an amendment about revealing information, and unfortunately we can't access that information right now. I guess I'm a little uncertain, then, in terms of what the exact intent of her amendment is. You have to be able to access information before there would be retribution for revealing that information. The purpose of our amendment is to do that. My sense would be that I'm still not quite sure what her specific intent is.

Mrs Caplan: If I could clarify for the parliamentary assistant, it follows on exactly the case I've been making and is reinforced by my colleague the member for Carleton. If a member of the civil service, by whatever means, comes into information which might be deemed private under section 11 and it is the view of that civil servant and of the government, but particularly of the person who receives that information, that there is an overriding public interest, then that civil servant could make sure the information is divulged and would not face retribution for having acted in a way which was consistent with the public interest.

Let me try to simplify that. We know that civil servants who work for the provincial ministries receive information which technically they may not be entitled to receive, as forms are filed and that sort of thing. They will receive information which they know, particularly as it relates to hazardous substances, should be divulged. If they do that, our amendment would protect them. It's a form of whistle-blowing, which I know you have said you support, and it would protect those who, if they do have that information given to them and they release it in the public interest, would be protected.

If I had your commitment to support that principle, the intent of which I think you believed in principle in the past, then it would give me comfort in supporting the amendments that have come forward.

Mr Sutherland: Again, I guess the intent of what we're trying to say here is that if someone reveals a hazardous material, that by itself is not the problem; the question is if someone reveals the actual trade secret composition. That's where the difficulty is. Revealing a hazardous material is not a problem. Therefore, I would think that by having what's there now the public interest is protected.

Mrs Caplan: Then I can assume that you are in support of the amendment we would put forward that has the test of "reasonable" attached, where it says that "disclosure could reasonably be expected to be in the interest of the health and welfare of the public."

1740

Mr Sutherland: It's my understanding that the federal commission will not give us the information unless we put in the same protections it has in place. That's what we're trying to do here with the amendment, clarifying that to do that.

Mr Sterling: One of the problems is that we didn't have notice of this amendment until we came to this debate this afternoon. When we go into it deeper and deeper we get into more and more problems. This particular amendment deals with section 2 of Bill 136, and section 2 of Bill 136 refers to subsection 46(2) of a federal government act, the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act. Through the kindness of legislative policy advisers, I've had an opportunity to look at subsection 46(2).

Subsection 46(2) appears to me to be wider, from my very initial reading, than just requiring or handing over the composition of the compounds. It talks about all information which has been received by the commission from suppliers, from manufacturers. I'm not comforted by what I read, in that the information they may be passing along to the government of Ontario may not only be compositions but something in addition to compositions.

I suggest to the parliamentary assistant only that perhaps it would be most prudent to rise and report and move on to another part of business so that we can have an opportunity to look at it. I'm not trying to stall at all. I'm only concerned that the situation hasn't been perhaps viewed as the member for Oriole and I are indicating.

I guess another question I have too is that even if it was only compositions, would that prevent the official from making a conclusion as to perhaps the toxicity of a certain compound, from making a statement thereafter?

I'm concerned about any law we make in here which gives any minister the opportunity to avoid subsection 11(1) of the freedom of information act. Basically this is the first time I've seen it, and that's why the alarm bells go off. With respect, I would truthfully like the opportunity to read subsection 46(2) in the federal act and understand if any additional information and compositions are being conveyed to provincial officials and whether it would block or deny a citizen the right to sue the government if something anticipated in our subsection 11(1) came up.

Mr Sutherland: It's my understanding that the member for Carleton asked about toxicity issues, those types of things. That type of information is already there and is

passed on. That's not the type of information being protected. It is the specific trade secret information, the composition and maybe some of the financial information that went into developing it, that might give other competitors, if they had access to it, an advantage. So with regard to the type of concern you raised, specifically regarding toxicity, that information is made available.

Mr Sterling: Subsection 46(2) of the federal act, which I have just had the opportunity to read, is a pretty wide section. I don't have the knowledge as to what information is being conveyed. Is it strictly information as to the compounds of these? You're given the trade name plus the compound that it comes under?

I understand the reasoning for these kinds of things going on because the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act is used by industries to discover what the other industries are doing: industrial espionage, or whatever you want to call it. There's a very good reason to keep that secret, in order to make certain that industries come forward before the commission and get their particular compounds approved for whatever use.

Can you answer me this, parliamentary assistant: If, for instance, the claims by the manufacturer were not accurate and that person receiving the information within the ministry determined from the compound that there was a problem, would he then be restricted from saying anything about it?

Mr Sutherland: It's my understanding that when you're talking about the claims of what is put forward or the accuracy of that, that the federal commission is the one with that responsibility and that it has already carried out some verification procedures to determine whether that information is accurate. So on your specific question, that would be the federal government's responsibility.

Mr Sterling: Is there any other legislation that avoids subsection 11(1)? Is there any other government legislation, any other act, which includes the freedom of information act, subsection 11(1), which exempts information from being used by an official of the Ontario government to warn the public of a problem?

Mr Sutherland: If there's provision already agreed upon that any of the confidentiality clauses that may be there would prevail over the act, then, yes, there would be other ones, but I don't have right here what those specific ones might be.

Mr Sterling: This issue is more than just dealing with this particular administrative problem, if you want to call it that. What you're talking about is sort of breaking the dam or whatever it is in terms of dealing with other kinds of situations which will arise from time to time where other governments and other individuals will come forward and say, "Look, we won't give you the information unless you do away with the public's right to know under the freedom of information act." That's why I asked the question. Are you breaking new ground in terms of putting the onus on the government to reveal information?

That's why I think after this debate it would be most prudent to set this matter down and bring it back another day, perhaps when you have had an opportunity to talk to

our federal counterparts and ask whether they really need an exclusion of any other act, because there are significant confidentiality provisions within our freedom of information act to prevent the disclosure of commercial information. We have it protected already under the freedom of information act, so why are we breaking new ground here and saying this particular kind of information is different from any other kind of information that is contained within the provincial government?

Mr Sutherland: I think I want to reiterate, to assure the member for Carleton, that no new precedent is being set in relationship to the freedom of information act by the amendment that is being put forward here. I would also say to him again that the information or the ingredients are all still being revealed. It is their specific composition within a mixture or their percentage in that mixture that is the issue being protected under federal legislation.

I think the concerns the member for Carleton has raised have been dealt with. We're not setting any new precedent here with respect to freedom of information.

1750

Mrs Caplan: At the start of today's debate on this Bill 136, I mentioned that the member for Oxford was carrying a piece of legislation for the first time and called upon members of the opposition to be gentle. We do want to be helpful. I do want to be helpful.

I think it is important for the parliamentary assistant to understand that when we read this amendment, which we have seen for the first time today, it seems much broader in its scope than what you have described to us here in this House.

I recognize you're a new member of the Legislature and that this is the first time you've carried legislation in the House, but it is important that we be confident that the effect of this legislation is not going to run contrary to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act wherein the government has an obligation to disclose. Nowhere in this legislation or in this amendment you're proposing do I see that kind of narrowing of the scope you have identified in your comments, and I am wondering if you have the information you could share with us, or a legal opinion from the Ministry of the Attorney General, that would suggest that this amendment is that narrow in its scope as to protect the public interest.

Mr Sutherland: I appreciate the member for Oriole representing the concerns of the public interest, and I think that's a fair comment. I think all members here want to ensure that the public interest is looked after in terms of safety.

I will reiterate to the member for Oriole that in this case, no, it is not broadening the scope; it is not an attempt to allow the government not to disclose. If it helps, I can assure the member for Oriole that there has been consultation with industry, labour and the other level of government, and there is a consensus that this amendment is fine, that it is not allowing the government to escape from its obligations to disclose.

Mr Sterling: Can I ask the parliamentary assistant if he knows whether the federal act is subject to the federal freedom of information and privacy laws?

Mr Sutherland: If I could, Mr Chair, I'll read out subsection 46(1), because it makes reference to the federal legislation. It says, "Subject to this section and the other provisions of this part and any regulation made under this part, all information obtained by the commission or an appeal board from a supplier-employer for the purposes of this part is privileged and, notwithstanding the Access to Information Act or any other act or law, no official of the commission nor a member of an appeal board shall knowingly, without the consent in writing of the person by whom the information was provided"—and it goes on from there. So it makes reference to it.

Mr Sterling: We're getting near the end of the day, and I really would like the parliamentary assistant to go to the federal government and say, "Look, if you will not allow our freedom of information act to be in place for the revelation of this information, will you at least allow section 11 of the freedom of information act to stand?" I would like to see whether additional information other than just straight information regarding the compound formula—information as to the effect of this compound, that kind of information—is being given as well. I'm not satisfied that's being done here.

I would draw the parliamentary assistant's attention to the commercial exceptions under our freedom of information act, which basically allow any member of our government to refuse to give information of a commercial nature. In other words, there's no way an official of this government could release that information unless it was under section 11 of the freedom of information act.

I am very reluctant to pass this amendment without having that fuller knowledge.

Mr Sutherland: I would like to try again to reassure the member for Carleton that we have had discussions with the federal commission, with its legal advisers. To the best of my knowledge, we've attempted to deal with the concerns the member has raised. The federal government is requiring the proposed amendment to clarify for its purposes.

For example, the member brought up concerns about treatment or whatever. There is already provision in place that if he needs a specific ingredient, a medical practitioner can contact the commission and the commission would provide that information directly to him.

Mr Sterling: Because we'll probably not get to the vote on this, perhaps the parliamentary assistant will assist me with information as to who is doing the negotiations on

the part of the provincial government and whether the issue of dealing with the freedom of information act was talked about, whether the issue of dealing with section 11 of the freedom of information act was talked about as being a different issue with regard to "other legislation" referred to in the amendment.

I don't think we can treat lightly the long and hard work that was done in order to bring forward significant changes in our law with regard to the rights of citizens to get information. We should not allow the government to bring forward an amendment like this unless we are absolutely assured that there is nothing that can be done in order to convince the federal government that in fact it requires us to do away with the rights of a citizen to information about something that could be hazardous to his or her health.

Mr Sutherland: The member for Carleton wants to ensure that the public can access this information, but I think it's important to remember that without this amendment the federal government indicates to us that you will not be able to access it and the public will not have it.

I understand his concern in terms of the public interest. We have certainly tried. If we could go forward and not have to make an amendment, we would be quite happy to do that, but this is what the federal commission is requesting us to do and we are trying to comply so that we can have the access to that information and will be able to protect the public interest.

Mr Sterling: Why do you need the information?

Mr Sutherland: Because we may need it for the purposes of administering the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mr Sterling: If you are telling me you need the information to warn the public about the dangers and then you're restricting yourself with regard to telling the public, don't you have two conflicting principles involved here?

Mr Sutherland: No. The purpose is not for the sense of warning. That information is already there under provisions of the workplace hazardous materials information system in terms of the sheets that are made available to people there. It would be for the purpose of carrying out investigations by, I assume, ministry staff if they needed to get that composition information.

Mrs Caplan: I would point out that it is one minute to 6. It might be appropriate for the committee to rise and report.

On motion by Mrs Caplan, the committee of the whole reported progress.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winner, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
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Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
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Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
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Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
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Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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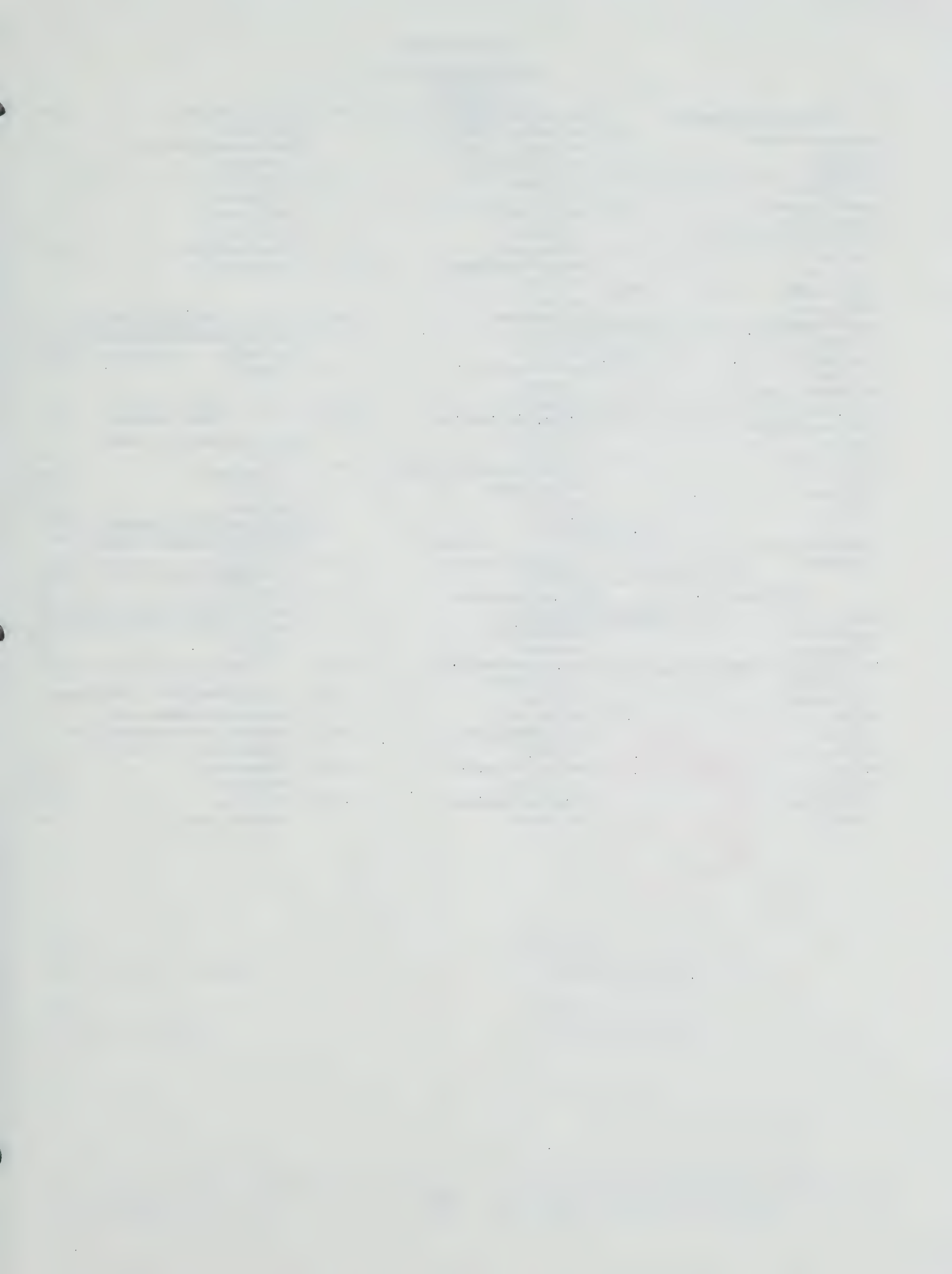
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CONTENTS

Monday 4 May 1992

Members' statements	
Assistance to farmers	495
Mr Eddy	
TV Ontario	495
Mr Villeneuve	
Jamaican maroons	495
Mr Mammoliti	
Ontario student assistance program	495
Mr Daigeler	
Highway safety	495
Mr Cousens	
Larry O'Rourke	496
Mr Hope	
Economic policy	496
Mr Elston	
Red Shield Appeal	496
Mr Turnbull	
Telecommunications	497
Mr Ward	
Race relations	497
Mr Curling	
Mr Cousens	
Mr Rae	
Member's privilege	499
Mr Speaker	

Oral questions

Budget	499
Mrs McLeod	
Mr Laughren	
Stabilization payments	501
Mrs McLeod	
Mr Laughren	
Taxation	501
Mr Harris	
Mr Laughren	
Budget	503
Mr Harris	
Mr Laughren	
Mr Phillips	

Teachers' dispute	504
Mr Sterling	
Mr Silipo	
International trade	504
Mr Perruzza	
Mr Philip	
OMA agreement	504
Mr Phillips	
Mr Laughren	
Revenue from gaming	505
Mr Tilson	
Ms Churley	
Race relations	506
Mr Mills	
Ms Ziemba	
Government assets	506
Mrs Caplan	
Mr Laughren	
Children's aid societies	506
Mr Jackson	
Mrs Boyd	
Occupational health and safety ...	507
Mr Mackenzie	
Mr Offer	

Petitions

Municipal boundaries	508
Mr O'Neil	
Member's comments	508
Mr Cousens	
Muskoka Centre	508
Mr Waters	
Municipal boundaries	509
Mr Grandmaitre	
Child care	509
Mr Jackson	
Municipal boundaries	509
Mr Eddy	
Member's comments	509
Mr Cousens	
Municipal boundaries	509
Mr Conway	

Labour legislation	510
Mrs Witmer	
French-language services	510
Mr Murdoch	
Mr Jackson	
Mr Runciman	
Mr Cousens	
Mr Murdoch	
Labour legislation	511
Mr Cousens	

Budget debate

Resuming the adjourned debate ..	511
Mr Phillips	511
Adjourned	516

Third readings

Class Proceedings Act, 1992,	
Bill 28	516
Mr Stockwell	516
Mr Elston	516
Agreed to	517
Law Society Amendment Act	
(Class Proceedings Funding),	
1992, Bill 29	517
Mr Winninger	517
Mr Chiarelli	517
Mrs Caplan	520
Mr Sterling	521
Agreed to	522

Committee of the whole House

Freedom of Information and	
Protection of Privacy Statute Law	
Amendment Act, 1992, Bill 136 ...	522
Mr Sutherland	523
Mrs Caplan	523
Mr Sterling	524
Progress reported	528



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 5 May 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mardi 5 mai 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 5 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BUDGET

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): Since the Treasurer tabled his budget last Thursday, needless to say our offices have been flooded with public response. I'd like to read into the record some of the comments we've received.

One businessperson in St Catharines believes that:

"The NDP budget extinguished any faith taxpayers might have had in looking to Bob Rae for fairness. The NDP's usurious personal tax rates will, no doubt, stifle any possibility of rekindling consumer confidence and further breach hopes for new business investment in what my customers tell me is an already 'too high cost to do business' belief about this province. Furthermore, the budget clearly demonstrates that the NDP's gambling initiative began with their 'fiddling' of the province's standard accounting practices: This amounts to no more than a 'shell game' foisted on the unsuspecting public."

A tremendous number of people have written or called us to express their views regarding this latest NDP budget. In the coming days we'll be bringing their message to this assembly so that their voices may be heard.

I would like to close with the following quote, which was made the other day and I think succinctly expresses what most people feel about this budget in Ontario. The person said, "I'm disgusted and can hardly wait until Ontarians get a chance to start to repair the damage" inflicted by this government.

COLLINGWOOD MUSEUM

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): My statement is directed to the Minister of Culture and Communications. As many members of this Legislature are aware, the models of ships which were on display in the east wing of this Legislative Building from January to April of this year were provided by the award-winning Collingwood Museum.

However, members may not be aware that the Minister of Culture and Communications is denying the Collingwood Museum several pieces of essential equipment which the museum needs in order to maintain the quality of its facility and displays.

Included in the Collingwood Museum's equipment list is a series of conservation temperature/humidity monitoring devices. These hydrothermographs have been identified as a priority item by the Ministry of Culture and Communications because of their value in helping to preserve museum artefacts.

To date, the Collingwood community has raised \$11,000 towards the installation of hydrothermograph devices at its museum. During a time of recession, in an area that has been devastated by layoffs and plant closures, the community's commitment to the project is outstanding.

All the museum needs is for the NDP government to live up to its end of the bargain. I would urge Bugsy Rae and Blackjack Laughren to take a second look at this proposal and to start betting on sure things, like the Collingwood Museum.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North): In my riding of Cochrane North, many people are concerned about the Ontario Labour Relations Act. They believe the act must be updated to meet today's labour standards.

Almost 30 years ago, a monument was erected in the community of Reesor between Kapuskasing and Hearst. This monument commemorates three workers' deaths and six injuries from gunshot wounds. The fatal dispute occurred over the issue of replacement workers during a legal work stoppage.

Again last winter violence erupted in Hearst during a legal work stoppage when replacement workers were used to deliver wood to a sawmill. A large number of people were fearful of what might have happened if the situation had dragged on.

I have received over 600 letters from workers throughout my riding, especially in the Hearst-Kapuskasing area. In their letters they write that the OLRA must be updated to meet the labour standards which already exist in other jurisdictions. Many people in Cochrane North are concerned about the pain and suffering that drawn-out labour disputes bring to their communities. They don't want that history to continuously repeat itself over Ontario's outdated labour laws.

BUDGET

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): It is now clear that last week's budget was a blatant attempt by the NDP to cook its books in order to save its political hide. As many NDP members are already aware, this tax-grabbing, confidence-wrecking budget is nothing short of indefensible.

My caucus has invited the taxpayers of Ontario to tell us what they think of the budget. These are some of the responses:

"This budget is taxing away the middle class's initiative to work and create jobs."

From an owner of three small businesses we hear: "We have decided to close down one of our manufacturing branches, while the other two operations have had a reduction in personnel by 50%. These constant tax grabs and the unstable government have caused us to rethink our whole organization."

A retailer in Toronto states: "The budget is going to force more Ontarians to shop across the border. It is unacceptable—their own tax commission recommended overall rate reduction."

A home owner from Toronto says: "Their strategy is wrong. We have to stimulate the economy. Creating new

taxes will only hurt us. Sunday shopping should be allowed. The creation of casinos is abominable."

Responses from Mississauga are similar: "Surtaxes on income are a nearsighted and destructive approach to deficit management. This surtax will result in reducing expenditures for goods and services in Ontario at the very time when more spending and consumer confidence is needed."

Finally, a businessman from Toronto states: "Taxes on small business owners have reduced all incentive to remain in Ontario. We can't afford to live here. Please insist that the Provincial Auditor review all NDP manoeuvres."

This is just a small cross-section of the responses we received from real Ontarians. These are real people with real concerns who deserve more than the Treasurer and the NDP seem able to give.

1340

MOOSE TAGS

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, I recently received your media advisory dated April 16 concerning your review of the allocation of moose tags within the tourism industry.

Your review is supposed to address concerns about the current system, including looking at ways of improving administration and communications; how new tourist outfitters can join the tag share program; how outfitters who are currently in the program can expand their operations, and looking at ways to lessen the impact on the tourism industry if moose tag quotas are reduced.

You are no doubt aware that tourist outfitters and individuals throughout Ontario welcomed your review of the moose tag allocation system when you first announced it two years ago. Hunters from all parts of Ontario welcomed the opportunity to provide input. However, your media advisory of April 16 indicates that you are only going to consult with a select few by holding meetings in Timmins, Sudbury, Wawa, Thunder Bay and Dryden.

You are snubbing the majority of individuals from southern Ontario who obtain moose tags each year by conducting your secret consultation meetings in select communities in northern Ontario. These people, the users, should be the most important. Get their input. It's important to hold meetings closer to the majority of the users. Am I mistaken in my assumption that you are a minister of the crown for all the people of Ontario? Or are you not?

TORONTO RIOT

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): Since I was elected, downtown Toronto has become a second neighbourhood to me, but last night I didn't recognize it. Although there were more police in the area than I've ever seen, I didn't feel safe. Walking on the glass-strewn sidewalks, I sensed the mixed emotions of those around me: bitterness, bewilderment, excitement, sadness.

I think nearly everyone would agree we can't establish a community where events like these occur. When groups are shut out of society, however, we create the conditions for violence and destruction. Those of us responsible for

the betterment of our communities must do all we can to fight the evil of discrimination.

This can be in the form of supporting initiatives of job creation so that no one in our society is unemployed. Employment equity programs must be put in place to guarantee that our workplaces reflect the makeup of our communities. I am pleased to see that the anti-racism advisory committee has been established by the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat.

Discrimination isn't just a big city problem; it exists everywhere in Ontario. Because of this, all members of this Legislature have a duty to work in their communities to remove the root causes of racism and other forms of discrimination. A discrimination-free society can be established once and for all. It requires accountable institutions, both private and public, that are sensitive to the wellbeing of all groups in our communities.

Last night's riot is only one event in a long history of incidents arising out of discrimination in Ontario. I believe, however, that our province also has strong traditions of tolerance, fairness and justice for all that will provide the basis for our creating a society worth celebrating.

KRISTEN FRENCH

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): With deep sadness and a profound sense of loss, the people of St Catharines said farewell yesterday to Kristen French, a bright, vibrant, sensitive, caring young person whose plight has been uppermost in the minds and hearts of people in our community for the past fortnight.

Life seems so unfair when a kind, gracious, innocent girl is taken from her family, her friends and her colleagues at school, in broad daylight in a church parking lot in the midst of a residential subdivision. The sense of vulnerability for women of all ages cannot be made more acute than by the bold, calculating, cruel kidnapping of a girl on her way home from school in her own neighbourhood.

A violent act perpetrated upon an individual in our society is a violent act against all of society, a fact not lost on the community, which has responded overwhelmingly to the tragedy which has befallen the family of Kristen French. Attitudes and actions which breed individuals who prey upon the vulnerable must be reversed. Violence against women, young and old, under whatever pretext, must not be tolerated.

The enactment and enforcement of laws to deal with violent crime must reflect the revulsion of our society against such crimes. It is not an issue which can be avoided, delayed or debated endlessly. It must be addressed now and it must be addressed with commitment and determination. We owe it to Kristen French.

EDUCATION WEEK

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): This week is Education Week in Ontario. Schools, teachers and students across the province will be celebrating in many different ways. We should all remember that schools are open to the public every day, not only during Education Week. For this special week, all aspects of education will

be displayed through artwork, creative writing, science projects, musical performances and career nights.

In London, students will be bringing education to the community by showing their projects in local malls and inviting families and friends to join them in their classrooms to experience the quality of programs their children are involved in.

As the member for London North and a former school board trustee who was and still is actively involved with students and educators in our community, I'm very proud of our schools and am encouraged to see the amount of public interest we have in our school system as well as the amount of support so many parents give to their children's education.

It's very important for government, business, labour and communities to work with our students, who will be our next leaders in an increasingly competitive global economy. We must ensure that education is a priority with this government and that the quality of education is not jeopardized in light of the recent transfer payments. Students deserve the training and opportunities that were made available to us. This can only happen with a commitment to major changes in the delivery of technological training and apprenticeship programs. What we need is the political will to get on with it.

ENVIRO FUEL

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): Today I bring some good news from the investment world to the Legislature. In my riding of Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings and in the township of Ernestown, as recently as last Friday myself and some other dignitaries cut the ribbon on the opening of Enviro Fuel. Konrad Sigurdsson and Perake Persson came to my office several months ago looking for assistance from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Ministry of the Environment, and after some negotiations were finally given the go-ahead to open up their Enviro Fuel.

Enviro Fuel is the official name of their company, and what it does is take basically unusable, wasted motor oil and redistil it through a process that turns it back into No 1 fuel oil. I want to say this is particularly important for a number of reasons. First of all, they chose Canada and not the United States to invest in. It's going to employ about 15 people, it's an environmentally sound process and it most certainly has the potential for growth in the future. I wish Enviro Fuel every success in the future, and I expect it will be very successful.

ADVOCACY AND GUARDIANSHIP LEGISLATION

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Under standing order 65 and also under "Privilege" under standing order 21, I'd like to get some direction from the Speaker. Today I was given by the government 199 amendments to Bills 74, 108, 109 and 110. These are significant bills, and, for the record, we have in our party tried to be as constructive as possible in dealing with these pieces of legislation. However, it's becoming somewhat questionable, if these amendments should become part of these bills, whether the bill we

passed on second reading in this Legislature is in fact representative of the final piece of legislation we may consider in committee of the whole House and on third reading.

Also, in terms of the privileges with regard to members of this Legislature, we would like to think that the parties which appeared before the committee would have full knowledge of what the government's intentions are with regard to this legislation as we go through the process. We had four weeks of hearings in the committee on these particular bills. Through these 199 amendments the bills have been substantially altered from what they were when they were first presented to this Legislature and presented to the public. It's my understanding it's the government's intention to proceed with the clause-by-clause analysis of these bills in three to four weeks without further public hearings.

Mr Speaker, I'd like you to consider, and under advisement because it's not an urgent matter, whether it's out of order for the government to carry on with legislation when there are substantial amendments that basically rip apart the original bill and the basis upon which this Legislature gave approval for second reading of this legislation.

1350

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, I wish to rise in support, in some ways, of the honourable member for Carleton, although I would like to note, when you're taking this issue under advisement, that a large number of amendments by themselves are not defeating of the purpose of the original legislation. During the minority legislatures we have always found that government bills were not universally acceptable and as a result a number of changes had to be made. It included in fact, during my stay as Minister of Health, Bills 54 and 55. When we finished with those in clause-by-clause, it turned out that the bills were substantially changed.

Having taken that as part of your reflection with respect to this particular request, I think the problem can be cured. In fact, we've discussed it in caucus. I was prepared to go to the meeting of House leaders on Thursday and try and work out some understanding, perhaps a possibility of an extended time for consultation or reconsultation. I think that perhaps there is an avenue there to cure, at least partially, the defect.

I also would like to note that our critic, the member for Halton Centre, has already widely distributed the amendments. I presume that the government likewise has widely distributed the amendments. But I think in terms of the record you probably would want to deliberate on whether it would be within parliamentary tradition to have at least a rehearing of some of the issues being dealt with by the amendments.

Two points: First, if the amendments are to be accepted and not seen as out of order, we should probably go through committee time for rehearing. Second, just because of number, that does not, in my view, necessarily defeat the purpose of the bill. It would seem to be much more reasonable under the circumstances, in dealing with the importance of the nature of these bills, that a rehearing of the public interest groups should proceed. I think that

obviously the House leader for the government would probably be open to some discussion on that point.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, very briefly, I think the suggestion that's been made by the House leader for the official opposition is a constructive one. We can talk about it Thursday, outside of any deliberations you might want to have on the issue. While 199 amendments are a lot of amendments, I gather from the public hearings that have already occurred on this legislation that there was a lot of input and a lot of support for the direction, but a lot of concerns have resulted in amendments. The ministers and the government were listening to that input, but it is difficult with 199 amendments. I'd certainly be willing to work with the opposition House leaders to try to sort out how we deal with this in a responsible way.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Carleton, the House leader for the official opposition and the government House leader, first may I say I appreciate the fact that the member has raised this important issue in the chamber. It's my understanding that this matter is currently before the standing committee on administration of justice. The most appropriate course of action to follow would be for any member of that committee to raise these points with the Chair and allow the Chair the opportunity to reflect on it and decide whether the amendments are in order.

Finally, I certainly appreciate the atmosphere of cooperation that seems to be evident in the chamber this afternoon. Perhaps that will spill over into question period.

Mr Elston: Just as another point of interest, Mr Speaker, I understand that you wish to have the Chair of the committee take these items under advisement. It is my view that when the deliberation is held, after we've had our discussions obviously, there not be a request to ask whether each of the individual amendments is in order but a consideration of the package. That is because in the committee, as I understand it, there really is no avenue for someone to raise the point that all the amendments taken as a package result in a series of amendments that are together out of order, but as you take them under advisement, one at a time, it might very easily be said, "This one is in order, this one is in order," and in the end come up with a result which probably may not be exactly correct.

The Speaker: I hate to suggest that at some point this matter will not find its way back to this chamber, but indicate that the first and most appropriate way to proceed would be to raise it in the committee.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues): I rise this afternoon to declare May as Sexual Assault Prevention Month in Ontario. This action by our government is directed towards changing those attitudes that promote sexual assault, a crime that fundamentally alters the lives of countless women and children.

As minister responsible for women's issues, I announced at a news conference earlier today the highlights

of our government's public education campaign. This year we want Ontario to know that any sexual act without consent is sexual assault and is against the law.

Although our understanding of what constitutes sexual assault is better than it was five years ago, the incidence of sexual assault has not decreased. Clearly, a better understanding of this crime must be accompanied by a change in attitudes. Unless we change our attitudes, we cannot hope to change our behaviour.

Sexual assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature imposed by one person upon another. This includes unwanted kissing and touching, sexual harassment in the workplace and actual rape, either by someone we do or do not know. Sometimes these actions culminate in the victim's death. All of us in this House are deeply saddened by the tragic death of young Kristen French, the most recent victim of murderous sexual assault.

The terrible reality of our society is that one in four women in Canada will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime, most likely by someone she knows.

The very fear of sexual assault affects women's lives in serious ways. For example, this fear can hamper a woman's ability to support herself. Some of us decline shift work or opt out of night school courses because we're afraid to travel after dark. Many graduate students jeopardize their chances at advanced research opportunities because they do not feel safe in the labs or libraries of our institutions during extended hours in the evening or on weekends.

The spectre of sexual assault also affects our social lives. Women hesitate to go out alone or to travel freely around our own city, our province and our country.

I am not exaggerating the fear that women feel. In a national poll conducted last year, 50% of Canadian women said, "We are afraid to go out in our own neighbourhoods after dark."

Our fears are well founded. Victims who report sexual assault are physically injured in at least 60% of cases. Of these, at least 20% are hurt seriously enough to require medical attention for bruises, lacerations and fractures.

Often, too, psychological and long-term health problems are the direct results of sexual assault. Depression, nightmares, erratic mood swings, eating disorders, anxiety, flashbacks and self-destructive impulses are among the frequent aftershocks endured by survivors of sexual assault.

Imagine how much more frightening and debilitating sexual assault is for young children, elderly women and women with disabilities. For these victims, already disadvantaged and disempowered by our attitudes towards age and different abilities, the effects of sexual assault are even more devastating.

For all these reasons, sexual assault poses a major barrier to women's equality. Sexual assault is a crime of power, not passion. It is a means of exerting control, not expressing love. It is unjust, it is illegal and, in the view of this government, it is intolerable.

This month we're taking concrete steps to foster long-term change in the beliefs and attitudes which condone sexual assault. Central to our campaign are two television advertisements, in both English and French, which dramatically

illustrate that any sexual act without consent is sexual assault and is against the law. The ads demonstrate that for women, consent or lack of it can be either verbal or non-verbal. Just as no means no, so does resisting, turning away or being unresponsive. Men have the responsibility to recognize and respect these messages, and women have the right to refuse sexual advances at any point. We never give that right away.

1400

Some people have trivialized the issue of consent by suggesting that men will have to sign contracts or call their lawyers before engaging in sexual activity. We are simply saying that men have the obligation to believe what women tell them, either by words or actions, when it comes to sexual contact.

Key components of this campaign, a first for Sexual Assault Prevention Month, are candid radio commercials aimed at teenagers. It is tragic that 50% of all sexual assaults happen to women 17 years of age or younger. While it is estimated that fewer than 10% of sexual assaults are ever reported, that figure drops to fewer than 1% where date and acquaintance rapes are concerned. Tomorrow I'll be joining students at Northern Secondary School here in Toronto to launch these radio messages, as well as to hear about how young people are working in their own ways to challenge sexual violence among their peers.

Besides forging a new partnership with young people, this year's campaign enjoys a strong partnership with our communities. This government has awarded grants totaling \$210,000 to 102 community groups throughout Ontario for local awareness projects. Let me share a few examples: The Grimsby-Lincoln Association for Community Living will hold a workshop about sexual assault for women with developmental disabilities; the Silayan Filipino Community Centre in Toronto is sponsoring an information and awareness campaign about sexual assault for the Filipino community; l'Association des femmes noires de l'Ontario is organizing workshops to educate young black francophone women about date rape and sexual harassment, and the Batchewana First Nation of Ojibway in Sault Ste Marie will conduct workshops for teenagers on three reserves.

Finally, newspapers throughout the province are running ads that declare "Against Our Will is Against the Law." We are distributing posters and buttons in English and French and brochures in nine languages about sexual assault, and we are funding native women's groups to develop culturally sensitive radio messages on sexual assault.

Of course, Sexual Assault Prevention Month is only one facet of our commitment to the challenge of violence against women. Since 1990, Ontario has almost tripled its support for initiatives against sexual assault, to \$17 million a year. Over \$8 million is new funding to enhance services for immigrant, racial minority, native and francophone women and women with disabilities. Twenty ministries and agencies, along with countless community workers and volunteers, are helping us to ensure that women receive the most effective response from our crisis services, our counselling efforts, our justice system and our prevention initiatives.

Our related programs on wife assault prevention continue to be funded at a record level of \$71 million per year. By 1994, the sexual assault and wife assault prevention initiatives will be integrated into a strategy to address all forms of violence against women.

But public education offers us the greatest hope for lasting change. After last November's campaign against wife abuse, for example, 72% of the men surveyed said they had been influenced to take responsibility not only for their own violent actions but for naming and working against the violence of other men too.

The media also deserve credit for their efforts to identify the prevalence of the circumstances under which this violence occurs, as well as to monitor the response of the criminal justice and social services systems to these crimes. This means the very sources through which we learn that yet another woman or child has fallen victim to yet another crime of sexual assault can also be used to raise our consciousness and thereby reduce sexual assault. Television, radio and newspapers need not simply report this crime; they can also help stop it by pointing out the effects of sexual assault and by detailing the sanctions applied against convicted offenders.

Stopping the crime of sexual assault is essential to achieving equality for women. We must ensure that everyone in Ontario understands that any sexual act without consent is sexual assault and is against the law.

TORONTO RIOT

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I would like to make a statement with respect to last evening's events here in the city of Toronto in the downtown area.

I share the concern over these very unfortunate events that took place last evening. I found these matters personally very disturbing and certainly frustrating. I want to convey my belief, though, that for many people these events began as a peaceful demonstration of some rather heartfelt frustration.

The event began as a peaceful demonstration about 4 pm yesterday at the United States consulate. The demonstration then moved to the Metropolitan Toronto Police headquarters. Following this, there was a sit-down demonstration at the corner of Yonge and Bloor Streets. The demonstrators then moved from there to the old city hall. A number of speeches were made and the demonstration basically concluded at that point. Most demonstrators left at that point and the remaining crowd of some 300 consisted mainly of vandals. It was then that eggs and bottles were thrown and a number of windows were smashed and indeed broken. That crowd then began to move farther up Yonge Street, with incidents of looting and broken windows.

Police reports also indicated that Molotov cocktails were being thrown and that there was a large degree of disorder, but in fact by 9 pm the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force had, in the main, restored control. Between 9:30 pm and 12 there continued to be sporadic incidents, but not of the sort earlier in the day. During this same evening about 200 stores were vandalized. Additionally, 37 officers sustained some injuries. Other civilians also sustained

minor injuries. There were some 32 arrests made by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

These disturbances are condoned by no one, especially not members of this government and, I know, no member of this House.

I want to acknowledge as well the many people who were involved in the efforts to control the situation.

As well, there was considerable damage inflicted upon many stores. I am sympathetic to the plight of those particular shopkeepers, but the police, I believe, were effective in controlling this volatile situation and protecting the right to demonstrate peacefully. They acted in a very professional manner. I believe the police service rightfully recognized that a large show of force at the beginning would probably only have inflamed an already difficult situation.

I want to say as well that the police were assisted by a number of solid members of the community who helped in a variety of ways and came forward. Other responsible members of the community assisted police officers, the media and others who were or found themselves in the most difficult circumstances.

I personally monitored this situation all evening. I received constant updates from my policing services division for Metro. I offered the assistance and support of my ministry to the Metropolitan Toronto authorities to help them contain the situation if it became necessary. I personally spoke to Metro Chairman Alan Tonks and Toronto Mayor June Rowlands. I took the situation extremely seriously and I continue to take the circumstance very seriously.

I want to share with the House as well that this morning I met with the chair of the police services board, Susan Eng, as well as the Metropolitan Toronto chief of police, William McCormack, and the deputy chief, Peter Scott, who was in charge of operations last evening. Considering the professional performance of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force last night in minimizing injury and preventing escalation, I have every confidence in the ability of our police force to handle these types of difficult situations.

Finally, I want to conclude by saying that we live, as we all know, in a multicultural society, and it is important that we all work hard to ensure that all services provided by our society take that reality into account. This government is committed to ensuring that this is a reality in Ontario. However, I would like to point out that vandalism is not to be mistaken for constructive protest in this city or in this province or in this country.

1410

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister Responsible for Race Relations): I too would like to rise and speak on the events that occurred last night, and mainly to talk about why they occurred and why people are feeling so frustrated and anxious about the situation.

We heard comments from all sides of the House yesterday about the feeling of frustration people had, and I think my colleague from the official opposition expressed very clearly his own personal experience and how he felt about his children. I think we all as legislators feel concerned that people in our society are not feeling a part of the whole society.

We also must recognize that we as legislators must be concerned and that we must act and we must act now. The frustration we all face and share cannot happen and cannot continue to happen. We must develop strategies and we must provide solutions to the problem, and I know all of us want to work towards that end.

Through our ministry, through the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat, we will continue this week to work closely with groups and organizations across the province and particularly in Toronto. This June, another phase will be developed with \$350,000 being available for community-based anti-racism projects across Ontario; however, with special emphasis to be placed on the greater Toronto area to work with multi-ethnic and multiracial groups.

We will also have a very broad-based public education campaign that will be put into effect to educate individuals and institutions about systemic discrimination and to address the solutions. Secretariat staff will be assigned to work with community groups to address and support their needs.

The Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group, which is made up of 18 men and women from all areas of the province from all racial backgrounds, will continue to help and assist the government to implement our various solutions to the problem. For example, the advisory group will assist in the development of the Ontario anti-racism policy. This policy will cover all sectors of Ontario society: business, labour, the broader public sector and of course the Ontario public service.

These are short-term strategies that are necessary and must be put into effect as soon as possible. This government knows many communities in Ontario want action and direction. This government is prepared to act and to respond now.

Fighting racism is not easy. It's an insidious disease which is manifested in so many different ways. Institutional racism is what keeps people excluded and powerless. People's dreams and aspirations are destroyed. The loss is to all of Ontario society and it is overwhelming. But we have to be vigilant in battling this terrible scourge.

We know Ontario benefits from its multicultural, multiracial diversity. It is a unique province and Toronto is a unique community. We cannot afford to let anything divide or separate our people in any way. Our strength is our people and our strength is in our culture and racial diversity.

I invite all members of this House to be united in combating racism in our society and I know I will get the support of all members of this House.

RESPONSES

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): The Liberal caucus welcomes the announcement today by the minister responsible for women's issues. It is particularly fitting that she is launching this campaign during Education Week. Her timing could not be better, because that's what it's all about, educating people, young people in particular, and changing ideas, attitudes and behaviour. The message that this new campaign is trying to send out is an important one. It's

about time that the often tragically misunderstood concept of consent be tackled and clarified.

As the mother of a 14-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old son, one thing is clear to me. Young women have to realize that they have a right to say no and not feel guilty, and young men have to know that they have an obligation to really listen to what women are telling them.

As the member for St Catharines so eloquently said earlier, we must, as a society, address the issue of violence towards women. We owe it to Kristen French.

TORONTO RIOT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Yesterday members from all three parties, with unanimous consent, addressed an issue of significant concern to all members of the Legislature and the people of Ontario. At that time there were eloquent and heartfelt speeches made about systemic problems facing members of the black community in Toronto.

Today I rise to respond to the statements made by the Minister of Citizenship and the Solicitor General. I would first like to say, in agreement with the Solicitor General, that none of us condone the vandalism and destruction carried out last night by a small group of individuals, and we appreciate the clarifying statement the minister has provided.

Clearly this was not the planned outcome of what began as a peaceful demonstration. To that end, we join in applauding the efforts made by demonstration organizers and others to try to stop this unacceptable destruction. At the same time, it is very important that we commend the police for their restraint and professional work under incredibly difficult circumstances.

Now is not the time to enter into unhelpful rhetoric. However, I believe it is also important we recognize that for some members of our society, the system still does not work. This includes fair access to justice and to education, and the ability of individuals to get jobs. As legislators, we have a responsibility to work together to ensure that those who feel excluded from our society can be more fully brought into the system.

It is not good enough for us to say that the system has mechanisms which are designed to address the alienation we all know exists. It is not enough to say that we have a Human Rights Commission, an Anti-Racism Secretariat or a special investigations unit if these institutions do not work effectively. Ultimately we will have to make the changes that will make these institutions work. To that end, I once again stress the willingness to work with everyone in a manner that will provide real solutions to these complex problems.

Whatever occurred last night, we know there are tensions and underlying frustrations which must be addressed. I believe a starting point to the development of real solutions to what we have discussed today would be for the leaders of all three parties to meet. Our objective would be and our objective must be to seek in a non-partisan way an understanding of the complexity of what occurred last night and an understanding of how we can all best respond to both the immediate concerns and the long-term needs.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): In the one minute I have, I'm taking this opportunity to commend both ministers for acting upon this initiative. I must express my disappointment, though. I had hoped that the Solicitor General, when he met with the chief, would call us. We had expressed the thought that this is not a partisan issue and that all legislators here would be willing, and I as the critic for the Solicitor General would have been willing, to meet with the chief at that time and to give our five cents' worth of what it would be.

Also, with the other minister, I was disappointed with the fact that all we have seen here are the old platitudes being offered again. We have to come up with more creative ideas and stop throwing money at it and feeling that we have solved this issue. This is much deeper. This is not a police issue against blacks, as all of you have said so very well. This issue is very deep, and we must be more creative in our approach to this.

1420

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): On behalf of the Conservative Party, I want to express our regret in respect to the events last evening in downtown Toronto. They certainly are not representative of any group in Metropolitan Toronto society. We sincerely believe that.

The Solicitor General, in his comments, used the word "unfortunate," and regrettably I believe I have to comment on what I believe were the Premier's unfortunate comments on the weekend, which, to be generous, were not helpful in respect to the situation. The Premier seems intent on legitimizing the completely baseless charge that Metro Toronto police are racist. No doubt there are bad apples in every barrel, but there is not a shred of evidence that there was any racial motive in the police actions last weekend.

It is high time the Premier stopped casting sly aspersions on the integrity of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force. The Premier spoke, over the weekend, almost entirely about alleged racism and not at all about the evils of drug-dealing, winning back our neighbourhoods and the dangers police face on a daily basis. Premier, instead of running to the media, I urge you to work with the other two parties in this house to begin a healing process to bring all groups in society together.

Finally, I want to express our party's hope that the government will do whatever is necessary to assist the Metropolitan Toronto Police, including the deployment of OPP officers, if necessary, to ensure that the demonstrations this Thursday and Saturday do not jeopardize public safety.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): One doesn't know whether to call it racial or whether it's public safety or what it is. All I know is the depth of the concern of everyone who saw what happened in Metro Toronto last night. They are stopped in their boots and they are shaking with a sense of fear about what has gone on and about the breakdown that's going on within our society. The respect that is needed for oneself to be able to believe in oneself, the respect for one's neighbour, the respect for property, the respect for law and order, the respect for the things that make our society strong is what this is all about. If that's

racism, let's call it racism, but it has to do with the deep, fundamental needs of our society. We and our party and the people in society are pleading for all of us to find ways to work together to make this a better place to live.

I can only say that if we as a party and as a people are going to allow poverty to continue, if we are going to allow people not to get an education and if we are going to allow a city not to have the respect for the things that keep it together, then we as a society will have failed our youth, our seniors and all that we represent. This is not a happy moment, and I'm coming to Pogo—I get confused with the way he said it—who said, "I've seen the enemy and them is us."

We all bear a sense of responsibility for what goes on in our society. I don't want to see us pointing a finger, but let's at least point with respect to the people who make this society whole and good—respect for our leaders—and may we continue to have that. When people within our society who lead a parade or who lead something lose something of that, then our society loses as well.

I thank Mr Runciman for his remarks, and I thank all members of this house for a sense of purpose. May we find it and may we work towards it and may we not be casual in any way.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): Our party certainly supports the direction taken by the government in its attempt to change attitudes that promote sexual assault. I can assure you that women do live in fear of sexual assault and that it certainly does affect our daily lives. However, I'm very concerned about the fact, and it's been pointed out here, that 50% of all sexual assaults happen to women 17 years of age and younger. I'm very concerned, although we do everything possible to publicize—posters, buttons and toll-free numbers, and they get fancier each year—that there are no services available for these young people.

I'd like to read from a letter I received from a mother in this province, where she indicates to me: "My daughter has been emotionally and sexually abused. I tried to get help and counselling for her when she was 15. I could get no help. Now, at 20, we looked for treatment and found to our dismay there was nothing available. We consulted our doctor, who suggested we might be able to be referred to a psychotherapist seven months away. I am very concerned that this government talks about the need to change attitudes but is not making a commitment to these young people under 17."

I would suggest that you do everything possible, Madam Minister—

The Speaker: To the member for Waterloo North, it is time for oral questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, as you have noted, in the order of business of the House it is now time to move to questions and to our role of holding the government accountable. It is important for

us to move to our continued concerns about the direction set out by the government in its budget and the impact of those directions on the people of the province. I would ask the question of the Premier, although I recognize he may wish to refer it to the Treasurer.

Having said that, there is no question that last night's events bring into focus the need to address the root concerns of many, many people in the province of Ontario as well as in the city of Toronto. Jobs are obviously a major worry of everyone in the province these days, perhaps especially among younger people. In Toronto and across Ontario, 18% of all young people between the ages of 15 and 24 do not have jobs. I would ask the Premier if he can tell this House why his government and its budget appear to be doing virtually nothing to address the serious problem of jobless youth.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I take some exception to the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition with regard to what we are doing on jobs. We have created three separate funds which are intended to direct attention to the jobs question. We have the Jobs Ontario training fund, the Jobs Ontario capital fund and the Jobs Ontario homes fund. We also have the views, I can tell the member, of a great many people in the business community with respect to the impact of the changes we've made to the tax system and the impact that is going to have on new investment in the economy.

I can tell you, with regard to the jobs question, with regard to the training question and with regard to the increases in the budget of the Ministry of Skills Development, we are going to be spending more next year, nearly \$1 billion in the skills development budget alone, with respect to new training programs in cooperation with the federal government. So together with the federal government, we are going to be spending more on training, re-training and apprenticeship programs than at any time in the province's history, an achievement of which I'm very proud.

Mrs McLeod: Predictably, the Premier, in responding to the question, has identified what the budget identified and that is the job creation funds identified in the budget, two of those funds being capital funds. The reality seems to be, however, that the government is spending exactly the same amount on capital projects this year—\$3.9 billion—as the government did last year. So it would seem to us that the government is simply supporting existing jobs, that there are no new jobs being created in the government's capital spending program.

I would ask the Premier whether he would not agree, simply in confirming what is stated in the budget, that the capital accounts in this budget are not creating any new jobs; they are simply supporting existing ones.

Hon Mr Rae: I am not going to allow the Leader of the Opposition to get away with that, because it simply isn't the case. With respect to the base capital funding of \$3.4 billion, that is intended to create 67,000 jobs; the homes fund 2,400 jobs; the strategic capital fund 9,800

jobs, and the training fund 10,800 jobs, in addition to the child care spaces.

Mr Speaker, let me also point out to you, and I think the member slipped over this in her question, that we are adding \$6 million to apprenticeship training to assist youth, women, aboriginal people, visible minorities and others who are underrepresented. The joint Ontario-federal government labour force development agreement this year is worth more than \$1.6 billion. That is the most substantial investment that the two governments have ever made in training and apprenticeship in the history of the province of Ontario.

1430

Mrs McLeod: We will ask questions about the government's training program and we'll look forward to the same answers about training programs being provided when we ask questions on that subject. Our concern today, and I believe it is the concern of thousands and thousands of people in this province, is what the government is going to do to create jobs or even to maintain existing jobs.

The Premier, in his first answer, referenced the fact that there are some tax relief measures. However, the tax relief measures, particularly on the corporate side, as somebody has recently said to me, don't make a lot of difference if you're not making money anyway. In any event, they don't come into play until 1993. It doesn't help very much the corporations which are currently trying to stay alive.

This year, according to the government's own budget, it expects employment and job creation to grow by only 0.3%. We are also aware that you'll lose one job for every \$40,000 in extra taxes. To us that seems to mean that this budget will kill 25,000 jobs this year. I ask the Premier, why has his government put in place new tax increases which will kill jobs when what clearly was needed was to create jobs instead? I wonder if the Premier can tell us what will be the impact, in the loss of jobs, of those tax increases.

Hon Mr Rae: I just want to say to the Leader of the Opposition that to describe her numbers as voodoo would be to pay her a compliment in regard to the impact of the numbers.

Let's hear from those people in the private sector that the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the third party and the Treasurer are all agreed are going to be the critical factors in creating new jobs.

Don McIver from the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto said, "The federal and provincial tax rates on manufacturing appear to be lower than in the United States." That's a big boost in terms of competitiveness.

The chairman of the Ottawa-Carleton Board of Trade said, "I think some of the initiatives may give business more confidence."

The director of taxation for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association said, "I feel so much more positive now than I did before the budget."

These are the people who are going to be encouraging the economy and creating jobs in the economy. I'm relying more on them than I am on the doom and gloom from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs McLeod: We of course recognize that some of the initial response to the government came before people had an opportunity to really examine the numbers. If the Premier wants to describe the numbers I'm using as voodoo numbers, I simply refer him back to his own budget for the source of the voodoo.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Since the Premier wants to talk about training and I want to talk about jobs, perhaps I can take him back to the other plank in this supposedly job-creating budget. I'd like to talk about the 10,800 jobs in the government's training strategy. These are jobs intended for social assistance recipients, to help them get back into the workplace, but the very premise of this training credit scheme is that the private sector will have vacant positions available.

With the Treasurer taking another \$1 billion out of the hands of consumers who would hopefully lead us out of the recession, can the Premier tell us how he expects the private sector to create those jobs for the social assistance recipients to move into? Does he really expect that a \$1,000 one-year-only training credit is going to be enough to encourage people to hire when they are not now hiring?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I refer that question to the Treasurer.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Unlike the leader of the official opposition, we don't draw or make the phoney distinction between training and jobs that the leader of the official opposition seems to make. We believe that there is indeed a very strong link between the need to provide people with training and, quite frankly, retraining so that people develop a real and permanent attachment to the workforce and don't simply engage in make-work projects the way governments of the past have done. We are determined to continue to put money into training so that when people do get into the workforce they will be prepared and have the skills to stay there.

The leader of the official opposition, as part of her question, asked, why will the private sector take advantage of such an offer? It seems to me that the private sector understands very well that it is in its best interests as well to have as part of its workforce well-trained people, both new people it hires—keep in mind that the training credits that are going to be offered to the private sector will be used, if it chooses to do so, to retrain people who are already in its workforce. This is a unique program which trains new employees and also retrains existing employees.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the Treasurer conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Laughren: Why wouldn't the private sector be anxious to take us up on that kind of offer?

Mrs McLeod: I don't know how the Treasurer can possibly say that there is not some distinction between training and jobs. All you have to do is talk to the men and women who have already gone back to school to take retraining programs, hoping they get a new start, and now they're out there applying for jobs that just don't exist.

It clearly says in the budget that the Treasurer's training program is dependent upon private sector employers being prepared to create a position which does not now exist. We simply don't know how that training scheme is going to be supported by an economy that is already in difficulty. I wonder further what the unemployed men and women of this province can find in this budget to encourage them. These people are desperate for some glimmer of hope.

The reality is that 609,000 people are out of work, 209,000 more than when this government took office in September 1990. This means that jobs are disappearing at a rate of more than 500 a day since this government took office. Even if the government's able to find 10,000 businesses willing to create a position out of its Jobs Ontario training strategy for a few of the million on social assistance, those 10,000 positions will account for 20 days of job losses. It offers nothing to the 609,000 unemployed people in the province.

The Speaker: Your supplementary?

Mrs McLeod: I simply ask the Treasurer this: What can he point to in his budget that will lead to the creation of long-term permanent jobs in the private sector for the 609,000 people currently unemployed in this province?

Hon Mr Laughren: For I think the first time in the history of this province we have established a strategic capital fund that's going to help provide funding in strategic industries so that we do not make the mistakes of the past and for ever offer short-term, sweeping-the-floor kinds of jobs for people in government programs. We are determined to make sure that taxpayers' money is invested in long-term, high value added jobs. That's the reason there's a child care component to our proposals and there's such a strong training component to our job programs.

I think what the leader of the official opposition doesn't seem to understand is that what she's asking for is exactly what this government is doing.

Mrs McLeod: I keep trying to find ways of helping the Treasurer to focus in his answers on the real price people are paying out there in our communities. The fact remains that there are 609,000 Ontarians out of work. Let me take a somewhat different approach to the question.

There are colleges and universities students who this spring are going to be graduating after many years of study and work, and tens of thousands of high school students are going to be attempting to enter the workforce. The sad reality is that these high school graduates and university and college graduates simply won't find that they have jobs to go to. I suppose the simple advice might be to hide in school for another year, but the Treasurer's hardheaded approach in that regard has made that impractical too. With drastic cuts to student assistance, that puts post-secondary education opportunities even more out of reach.

If the Treasurer is not prepared to make post-secondary education accessible and he's not prepared to let the private sector create jobs, just what advice does he provide to those thousands of young people leaving school this spring and trying to enter the workforce?

Hon Mr Laughren: We are finally reaching the point in this recession where most objective observers are saying we're starting to come out of it; there is hope on the horizon.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Laughren: I can tell the members opposite that the recession is not restricted to Ontario. It's not restricted to Canada. It's in the United States as well. I do understand that the official opposition has a responsibility to try to pick holes in the budget; that's its job. I've done it from time to time in the past. But she does seem to be the only person out there in Ontario who doesn't now think there's more hope than there is despair. I would ask her to get with it and join the majority of this province.

1440

TORONTO RIOT

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. Premier, last night Toronto experienced rioting and vandalism that many Ontarians, many Torontonians, many of us thought couldn't happen here. I think we must make an important distinction between the peaceful protest that was held yesterday afternoon and the reality of last evening. However, I don't believe we can deny that the demonstration that was scheduled for yesterday did in fact become a forum for every hooligan who felt like throwing a Molotov cocktail or breaking windows or looting.

Given that reality, Premier, could you inform this House if you have since last night spoken with the organizers of yesterday's demonstration about their thoughts on this and how last night and the results of last night might impact on their plans for the type of further demonstrations they may wish to make in a very legitimate way, as they are entitled to do? Premier, have you discussed this with the organizers of the rally yesterday?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I have had a couple of conversations with members of the black community, and to be perfectly honest with you, I don't know whether or not they were involved or could be considered to be organizers of the peaceful demonstration yesterday afternoon. I've had meetings with a number of people over the last few days and spoken to a few people on the phone with respect to what happened last night and with respect to the feelings in the community.

All I can tell the honourable member is that members of any community are free to peacefully assemble; that right is guaranteed by the Charter of Rights. But that does not in any way, shape or form mean we condone any kind of vandalism or any kind of violence or anything of that sort. I've made that very clear. The Solicitor General has made that very clear today.

But I think, in fairness to members of the community and members of different communities who feel strongly about their rights to speak their minds with respect to public policy, we have to make that distinction and we must not assume that every peaceful assembly will necessarily lead to or contribute to an act of violence or hooliganism or vandalism. It's very important for us to make this distinction,

because it's an important distinction in fact as well as an important distinction in law.

I would take this opportunity, and I hope the leader of the third party will allow me to do so, to express my profound hope that anyone who is exercising his or her peaceful right of assembly would exercise that right with a sense of understanding and with a sense of responsibility, and I'm sure that's exactly what people are going to do in our society.

Mr Harris: There are different forms of peaceful right of assembly. There are different forms of protesting actions, injustices, and I'm not questioning that right and I'm not questioning the injustice we talked about yesterday in this Legislature as needing to be addressed.

What I am suggesting, Premier, is that I believe there is a role for you or one of the senior members of your government in communicating with and discussing with the organizers of the rally yesterday, and potential organizers, I understand, of rallies now on Thursday and on Saturday, to see if we cannot come to some agreement with them and some accommodation and some understanding of other forms of protest than the one we saw on Thursday. I suggest, Premier, and ask and implore—I guess I'm asking you to do that.

Given the reality of what happened yesterday, that the form of protest yesterday, of assembly, I suggest to you—I'm sure not with the intent of the organizers—ended up being a lightning rod for actions that none of us condone, including I'm sure the organizers of the protest yesterday—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the leader conclude his supplementary, please.

Mr Harris: Given that reality, Premier, would you not agree with me that there is a role for you as Premier or for a senior member of your government in trying to work with the black community in Toronto to make sure the protest is one that is less likely to spark this kind of reaction?

Hon Mr Rae: I certainly think it's important for members of this government, including the Premier—I met with people on Sunday. I met with my staff on Saturday afternoon in my office when I heard of the original shooting incident because of the concern I had with respect to the situation. I had a very quickly arranged meeting at noon on Sunday with a number of individuals from the black community, attended as well by some people from my office and from other ministries. I continued to talk by phone yesterday, last night and today about the situation.

I think it's important, however, for us to stop short of saying it's going to be the Premier of the province who is going to suggest to people whether or not they are going to congregate, if that's what they decide to do. I think that's something which goes a step beyond what is appropriate.

What is certainly appropriate is for me to say, both in private conversation and publicly, that we recognize fully people's rights to peaceful assembly. In no way, shape or form is that to be confused in any way with hooliganism, vandalism, the breaking of windows, the destruction of

property or anything else. If I may say so, I think it's been very clear from the comments that have been made by those who were associated with the beginning of the demonstration last night that they share that view. I think they've made it very clear that they do not see the peaceful protest as in any way sanctioning or condoning or approving of the deplorable vandalism which took place afterwards.

Mr Harris: I agree with you that they did not see it that way and they are not condoning it, but, Premier, surely you would agree with me that that was the net result. There was some spark that set off the rioting and the looting. It didn't start on Saturday or Sunday; it started after this peaceful assembly, which is their right to do.

Given that these are particularly delicate times, given that the protests are made to make sure that we as legislators, you as Premier, the Solicitor General, the police, the mayor, the regional chairman, those in some position to help change the attitudes they want changed—that's the reason, I believe, for the protest, the demonstration. Do you not believe, given these times, given what happened yesterday, you could meet with the organizers and potential organizers of similar protests for Thursday and Saturday and indicate to them that there are other ways to protest that will have a significant impact on you—that you're listening, that you're hearing—without a repeat of the hooliganism and the violence we saw last night in Toronto's streets?

I would ask you for that reason: If you believe, and I don't think you do, that it would have happened last night without something to precipitate it—very regrettably; that was not the intent—but given that it did, ought not we do everything we can to ensure that there are other, more peaceful ways to express the opinions that wish to be expressed?

Hon Mr Rae: I don't want to be argumentative, because this is such a sensitive subject and such a difficult one. But I do want to say to the honourable member I think he should be very careful about the fact that there was a group of people assembling together and his making the assertion that this is somehow a necessary link to the events that took place on Yonge Street. There may have been many other events which intervened between those two events of which neither he nor I are aware. I have to be very careful in reaching those conclusions he is drawing.

All I can tell the honourable member is that of course the members of this government will continue to work with all the members of our society, with all members of all communities with regard to what is going on. We will be doing whatever we can to try to ensure that however it is that people choose to express themselves, it will be done in a way that is peaceful and in a way that fully respects the rights of others. That is something I am very much committed to doing.

Mr Harris: Premier, if there is one remote possibility that there is a possible link, wouldn't it be worthwhile initiating the first move to discuss this?

1450

INCOME TAX

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question is also to the Premier. Yesterday you told this House, and in your budget you told this House, that someone earning \$53,000 a year is well off. I'd like to ask you about Carmen, the 40-year-old single mother of a 16-year-old son. Carmen is a South American immigrant who just recently proudly became a Canadian citizen. As an assistant bank manager in Toronto, Carmen earns \$53,206 a year. Premier, Carmen is very proud of what she has achieved and has high hopes for her son. She knows his education will be costly. Can you explain to Carmen why you are penalizing her for her success and hard work in this new, chosen country that she picked?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm going to refer this to the Treasurer.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I want to make sure I heard the leader of the third party's description of Carmen correctly. This is a person who has a son, I believe, which therefore means she has a deduction that would certainly remove her from the \$5,500 Ontario tax payable threshold. As a matter of fact, while I'm on my feet, Mr Speaker, perhaps you would allow me to explain more fully than I did before.

The \$53,000 level is the income for someone who has only the personal deduction. If that person has any other deductions, such as belonging to a trade union or if the person makes contributions to an RRSP or pension plan, then she would not pay the surtax until her income got up around \$60,000. I was using the \$53,000 as the person with the least possible deduction under our tax system, namely, the personal deduction. In fact Carmen, the person you described, would not be paying tax if her income was \$53,000 for one reason for sure: She apparently has a dependant; and second, if she has any other deductions from her income, the rule would be she would not pay the surtax.

Mr Harris: And if she perchance had \$500 in other income, she would. Treasurer, I'm really surprised that this \$53,000—

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): No, no.

Mr Harris: You can have two different jobs and it doesn't count? It's not the total income?

Treasurer, I'm really surprised at the one reason you have given me. I've seen a lot of what you have done as a payback to unions, but I didn't know that the \$53,000 was to encourage people to join unions so they could have that write-off and try and get below the line. You insist, Treasurer, that \$53,000 a year is loads of money, even though more than half of that money is eaten up by taxes.

Treasurer, you're having a tough sell of this with Ben. Ben is a senior constable with the Ontario Provincial Police. Ben has 11 years' experience and earns \$51,643 a year. Ben regularly works overtime to pay for his mortgage and to make sure there's a little left over for a rainy day. After your budget last Thursday, Ben now says it does not make sense to work overtime. You are killing initiative in this

province. Can you tell Ben why he should want to work any harder when you have stated that should he get a little more money you're going to take it all away from him?

Hon Mr Laughren: We do not yet have in this province, and never will have I assume, a 100% marginal tax rate. That is absolute nonsense. I don't know what the leader of the third party thinks about when he comes up with some of these questions. For example, he talks about the deductions for union dues. That's under the federal Income Tax Act; it has nothing to do with the province of Ontario. Those are standard deductions from income that have got nothing to do with the surtax. They're already in place and they're simply legitimate deductions from personal income. The leader of the third party may have a pessimistic view of the work ethic in this province that is not shared by members of this government.

Mr Harris: The people in this province don't believe they have a government in charge that wants them to succeed. They feel that working harder only means getting hit harder. Not once in your Agenda for People did the Premier or you, Treasurer, tell the hardworking men and women in this province that you intended to gouge them further. In fact, you travelled this province and told them the opposite. You said, "Somebody else will pay." You said: "Don't worry. We can have it all and somebody else will pay."

Treasurer, will you now admit that in your Ontario, in Bob Rae's Ontario there is in fact nobody else to pay, that it will be the middle class, that it will be hardworking men and women, that it will be anybody earning \$20,000 a year or more who must pay more taxes for every new initiative and program you've brought in?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the leader conclude his question, please.

Mr Harris: Will you now admit that is the case, not the scenario you painted in 1990 in your Agenda for People?

Hon Mr Laughren: I do not for one minute believe that the people of this province who feel the taxes they pay are going to provide the essential services in medical services and education and other social services, I don't believe that there's resentment at paying taxes when they feel that money is being well spent.

Second, I remind the leader of the third party that the last time I checked I believe the top marginal rate for Ontario's income tax rate was the third lowest in all of Canada. The leader of the third party is blowing smoke.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I have a question for the Minister of Skills Development. Earlier in question period today the Premier and the Treasurer spoke about skills training programs. The fact is that many people who complete a skills training program still can't find a job, and that's what we're talking about today—jobs.

I'd like to ask the minister why, after we have brought it up week after week in this past month, he has continued to cut a program, piloted across this province, that not only provided people the opportunity to pick up the entrepreneurial skills in order to create a job for themselves but his own government's assessment has proven has been able to

create jobs for a lot of other people too, and create jobs for this ailing Ontario economy.

I'd like to ask the minister why he has cut these programs and what strategies he has got out of the throne speech and the budget that are going to replace these programs and get people off social assistance and help them create their own jobs. Why is he putting the ones who are doing that now back on social assistance?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): I haven't the faintest idea what the member is talking about. There wasn't a reference to a specific, named program. To the best of my knowledge, there is no program that I'm responsible for that has been cut back.

In fact, anybody who looks at the budget last year or this will know that all our training initiatives under this ministry have been dramatically expanded. He will also know that some of the programs he might have been referring to, under the Ministry of Community and Social Services, that have been brought up in this House are worthy of continuation and are being looked at from that point of view. There are some that cost so much you wouldn't even fund them, as I said the other day, if you were on this side of the House.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Etobicoke West, come to order.

1500

Mr Ramsay: I'm surprised the minister is going to judge the opposition as to whether they're going to fund these programs or not. We think they're very good programs and they should be funded, and that's what I'm saying to you today.

What are the strategies you've got to fund these programs to help these people? These people have come to these programs funded by government. They've picked up these skills; they've hired these people; they've created jobs, and now you're cutting these programs. We want to see what planning has gone into the new programs you've announced. You haven't announced any new programs from the budget or throne initiatives in regard to skills training.

These three-year programs, these three-year plans you've talked about in your jobs strategy: What's going to happen to those people when they finish your programs? Are these people in three year's time going to go back on to social assistance? Where is the strategy to create the long-term training and job creation for this economy?

Hon Mr Allen: We have talked in this House before about the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board and its long-term plans. We have talked about the local board structures and their long-term plans. We've talked about the Canada-Ontario labour force development agreement, which plows more money into training in this province than either the federal or the provincial governments have ever done before. We've got a \$940-million program that's laid out in the budget. If you want to read the budget, you can see references to apprenticeship programs which will be expanded in the schools and outside them, and for francophones for the first time in places where they'd

never been offered before. I can go on but I would take up too much time of the House. Other people want to ask questions.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a question to the Premier. Premier, yesterday your Treasurer admitted that it was tough for him to oppose Sunday shopping when you have given and he has given the green light to gambling and casinos in Ontario. Given that you, Premier, your cabinet, your caucus and your party no longer have a moral leg to stand on—there's no value, there's no principle you stood for that is now in your road—are you willing to allow shopping seven days a week in Ontario?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Since the Treasurer spoke so eloquently on this subject yesterday, I think I'll let him answer the question today.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Treasurer.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and through you the Premier. I did indicate yesterday in speaking to a fine group assembled downtown that the Sunday shopping issue was one which had plagued three successive governments now and was an extremely difficult one, because there's no question that over the last several years public opinion and what people feel very strongly about out there on Sunday shopping has changed. There are still some very strong feelings on both sides of that issue, however. All I concluded, and I'll say it again today as I stand here in my place, is that we have not changed our position on Sunday shopping.

Mr Harris: We're told, Treasurer—if you want to refer it back to the Premier, it's probably entirely appropriate on the supplementary, if he's still here—that some of the major stores in Ontario are considering opening on Sundays. Some, they say, are considering it as early as this Sunday. We're hearing many say, "Well, we're going to have casino gambling." The government's sending out lots of mixed signals. Some over there seem to think it's a good idea. Perhaps some of them are at the point where they're concerned that they're going to be bankrupt and not around when, next month or two months or three months or six months from now, you finally figure out how you're going to explain the quid pro quo to Bob White as to why the change in position on Sunday shopping. We know you're desperate for cash; we understand that.

Treasurer, rather than prolonging the agony, do you not feel the signals you've been sending out are so very obvious that before the end of your term of office you're prepared to allow Sunday shopping? Would you not agree it would make sense to allow it now so we do not have businesses breaking the law, tying up police resources just so they don't have to go bankrupt? Why don't you do it now instead of three months from now or six months from now?

Hon Mr Laughren: For the sake of being repetitive, I just say to the leader of the third party that, no, we're not prepared to do that at this point, and also that we fully

expect the retail sector in this province to obey the law, and I have no reason at this point in time to believe it will not.

ONTARIO'S CREDIT RATING

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): My question is for the Treasurer of Ontario. Yesterday in the Legislature, I could hardly believe my ears when the members of the official opposition accused the Treasurer of somehow cooking the books. The leader of the third party said: "...Treasurer, that you are no more successful in pulling the wool over our eyes, and you are certainly not successful in pulling the wool over the bond rating agencies' eyes. Ontario is now on rating alert because you have no credibility as Treasurer." I believe the hocus-pocus as suggested has been resolved. I would like to know what the credit rating is now of the province of Ontario.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): That question is more appropriate than the member who asks it fully realizes.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Standard and Poor's just dropped.

Hon Mr Laughren: Yes, that's right. Perhaps this would be the appropriate time to inform the member and the Legislature that earlier today Moody's, the American bond-rating agency, reaffirmed our credit rating as AA. However, subsequent to that, Standard and Poor's, the other large credit-rating agency, lowered our credit rating from AA-plus to AA, which puts them at the same level as Moody's. So with the AA credit rating, that puts us one notch below British Columbia, at the same level as Alberta and above the credit rating of every other province in the country.

Mr Mills: Treasurer, I thank you for that answer, and I hope this will be widely reported on because it's not a state of gloom and doom in this province; it's a state of prosperity and go-ahead. I wish you people would contribute to this—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Is there a supplementary?

Mr Mills: —instead of keeping on with the gloom and doom. I'm sick and tired of the lot of you.

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Interjections.

The Speaker: I did not hear a supplementary question; I did in fact hear a brief speech.

1510

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a question to the Treasurer. A Toronto Star article recently described, "Sheriffs' eviction notices have become a sign of the times in Peel." That's a sign, Treasurer, for businesses and for families of the unemployed. Treasurer, since your government has taken office, over 38 major, and I stress the word "major," businesses have closed or laid off staff. That has added up to over 5,000 jobs lost in the region of Peel. I would like to indicate to you, Treasurer,

that these figures do not include the many hundreds of small businesses in the region of Peel with under 50 employees that do not show up on the government records.

I would like to ask the Treasurer to comment on how his plan for over \$1 billion in tax increases and for temporary training subsidies to create temporary person-hours of employment is going to replace the very real jobs that have been lost in the region of Peel.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The member opposite most appropriately refers to the very serious job losses we've experienced in this province. We've lost over 250,000 jobs since this recession started. But objective or fair-minded people, whether they like this government or not, have not blamed this government for this very severe recession. I hope the member opposite is not doing that.

Specifically addressing the measures in this budget, I can tell the member opposite that while the income tax increases do extract money from the economy, we are putting many, many times that much back into the economy. As a matter of fact, the revenue from the tax increase goes right back into the economy. It's not as though we take it and store it someplace. That goes right back into the economy to help stimulate the economy and encourage investment and jobs in Ontario.

Mr Offer: Let me try to explain to the Treasurer the realities of what's happening in the region of Peel. Today in question period we have heard the Treasurer use the phrase "the phoney numbers" and we've heard the Premier use the words "voodoo numbers." In Mississauga we have Corona Corp, 131 real jobs lost; Inglis in Mississauga, 500 jobs lost; Amdahl Communications in Mississauga, 209 jobs lost; McDonnell Douglas, 575 jobs lost. Treasurer, the list goes on and on. You talk about freezing some business taxes, but the reality, and the message you are sending out, is that the taxes are going to go up by more than \$1 billion.

I ask the Treasurer, have you ever considered raising revenue by raising business confidence instead of taxes? How can you, Treasurer, explain to the 404 laid-off employees of Walbar Canada in Mississauga that more taxes are going to bring back their jobs?

Hon Mr Laughren: I wish the member opposite would be fair, because in this budget we did reduce the income tax rate on manufacturing, processing, mining, fishing and agriculture. Second, we reduced the tax rate on small business from 10% to 9.5%, enriched the research and development allowance and increased the current cost allowance. So it's not fair to say that we haven't done something for the private sector in this budget. We sure have. We've given them the incentive to get out there, invest in this province and create more jobs.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a question for the Solicitor General. Yesterday the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations confirmed that before the implementation of the casino policy goes forward, it would be done by legislation as opposed to order in council. One of the concerns our party has is, in the communities that are going to be allowing these casinos and other

forms of gambling, is the government going to provide proper police protection to these communities when these casinos open up?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): The simple answer to that question is yes. First of all, the budget indicated that where casinos will operate will only be done with consultation with municipalities, first nations, charitable groups and so on. So I don't think they're going anywhere there isn't a welcome or an inviting host.

When they do arrive at those locations they are invited to, the concern about the policing and the fact that there's already a strain on policing I think is a valid one to be raised; the member opposite raises it. But the police are going to be involved right at the outset of consideration of those casinos. If in fact it becomes a circumstance that they are government-owned and -operated and have the involvement of the police right at the first steps, I think concerns can be very heavily minimized. Beyond that, I'm sure that whatever agency looks after the operation of casinos will have its own auditing and control devices internally to ensure that it minimizes any need for policing.

Mr Tilson: I appreciate your saying that you are going to provide special funding or extra funding over and above the funding that's allowed by the various municipalities to assist in policing these casinos and the various problems that are going to develop from them.

The police commissions and the police services boards are talking about how their budgets are being stretched to their limit now. They simply don't have the funds to operate. Where in the world are you going to get the extra funds to provide for the policing of these casinos if the police services boards are saying now that you're not giving them adequate funds as it is?

Hon Mr Pilkey: As I indicated, there will be a lot of very deliberate attempts to minimize the impacts of the requirement of additional policing. Of course, as we do in all policing matters, whatever resource is required to maintain the public safety would be provided and any additional dollars therefore would be the subject of future estimates.

BUDGET

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): My question is to the Treasurer. I could ask you a question about the report from the Toronto-Dominion Bank economist who's predicting that Ontario will lead the country out of recession, but I won't, because the opposition will accuse me of asking a puffball question, so I'm going to focus on the budget.

When you look at the hardworking people of Brantford, in Westcan, in Gates and Keeprite, the clerks and bank tellers, I don't believe any of them would make enough income to qualify to pay the surtax being implemented in the budget. The \$53,000 threshold in fact probably isn't really a threshold, because that's only a bare minimum and people would be making more.

The comments in the budget were that 10% of the working population of Ontario probably would end up paying the surtax one way or the other while 90%—the working people, the middle class of this province—would be exempt because they didn't make enough to meet the threshold.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): And the question?

Mr Ward: How did you arrive at those figures, Mr Treasurer?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): That's an important question, because it is important to make a distinction: \$53,000 is the rough estimate of the gross income at which the threshold would kick in, and it's important to note that it's not on the \$53,000 that the surtax is paid. The surtax is paid on the Ontario tax payable. Generally speaking, as a very minimum, with absolutely no deductions except the personal deduction, a person earning \$53,000 would start to pay the surcharge on the amount in excess of the \$5,500 of Ontario tax payable. However, if there are any deductions beyond the personal deductions, their income would go up higher; for example, if they had very average deductions, it would be closer to \$55,000 or \$60,000 before the surtax would kick in.

In conclusion, I would say that actually fewer than 10%, in other words, more than 90%, will not be affected by the surtax.

Mr Ward: Some of the comments from the people of Brantford about the budget direction have been quite favourable. The Taxpayers Coalition Ontario representative said it's a fair budget. The chamber of commerce president said the business tax cuts should be good for business.

Now, this is going to be my supplementary. It's going to focus on the benefits the small business community should derive from this budget. There is a tax cut for small business. Could you perhaps expand on what benefit that could be for the small business people in this province?

Hon Mr Laughren: A number of components of the budget will be in favour of the small business community. I mentioned one earlier today, namely, the reduction in the tax rate on profits earned by small business from 10% down to 9.5%. However, I think the biggest benefit in the budget for the small business community will be the confidence we are expressing by investing in Ontario ourselves, by our job creation proposals, by our attempts to draw the private sector into the training aspect of workers, whether it's new employees or existing employees. So I'm not surprised that we're getting some very favourable comments. There are some predictable objections to the budget, of course, but generally speaking, I think most objective, fair-minded people would agree there has been quite a favourable reaction to this budget.

1520

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question was going to be to the Premier, but I'll go to the Treasurer. We've seen some signals from the Premier that he might be softening on the Sunday shopping issue. We saw him take a straw vote at a meeting of the reeves etc in Windsor—who all voted in favour of it—indicating he might be backing off. We heard you yesterday say that your government was not going to back off. Sir, whom do we believe, you or the Premier?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Yes.

Mr Mahoney: So we believe the Premier when he says he may be backing off and gives the signals, but we believe the Treasurer when he says the government's not going to take—that's fair, actually, because that's exactly the kind of message I expect out of this government: "On the one hand, we believe this, and on the other hand, we believe the opposite."

I'm trying to get some clarification for the small business community, particularly the small retailer, Mr Treasurer, who cannot afford the time, the cost or the red tape to apply for an exemption, particularly in light of the fact that under your regulations, he—and in many cases she—could wind up at the Ontario Municipal Board facing a challenge from anyone. You're looking at spending \$7,000 to \$10,000.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): And the supplementary, please.

Mr Mahoney: Considering the silly answer I got to my question, you could at least allow me to put the appropriate question to this person.

Despite your comments yesterday, whoever you are—this person—we've seen clear evidence that about 67% of the public supports revisions to Sunday shopping. We see the costs involved in applying for an exemption and it's just not realistic. In fact, in a call to my office, Eaton's is saying it's not going to open but the Bay is saying it is going to open.

Treasurer, my question is, in light of the overwhelming support for Sunday shopping, will you change your legislation, will you back off, live up to the rumours and implications of your Premier and allow the retail sector to open on Sunday?

Hon Mr Laughren: I think the member opposite should not lead the public of Ontario or members in this House to believe that everybody out there in the business community supports the idea of wide-open Sunday shopping.

Mr Mahoney: It's 67% per cent, Floyd.

Hon Mr Laughren: I'm talking about the business community. There are lots of people in the small business community in particular who are very worried about Sunday shopping.

Mr Mahoney: They're dying.

Hon Mr Laughren: If you'd let me answer, they're telling us, "We hope you will study this very carefully before you make any change in your policy," because there are some businesses that would not be beneficially affected by a change in the law, and we are taking their advice and studying this matter very carefully.

ONTARIO'S CREDIT RATING

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I have a question of the Treasurer. Why did the bond-rating service Standard and Poor's drop your credit rating, Mr Treasurer?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Standard and Poor's has dropped its credit

rating to the same level as Moody's, and basically it's now constant.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Laughren: I really was hoping I would have a chance to answer a very important question. If the heckling will die down, I'll make a serious attempt before the clock runs out as we get near the end of question period. It really is an important question and I wouldn't want to see question period end without having at least a serious attempt to answer it.

There is no question that when Standard and Poor's looked at the pace of the recovery in this province, they regarded it as being slow, as we do too. Virtually everybody who examines the economy, not just in Ontario but elsewhere, realizes that it's going to be a very modest recovery. That causes them some concern, and it causes us some concerns as well.

Finally, if I might, they are concerned about the degree to which we are going to have flexibility on expenditure reductions and on revenue increases—

Interjections: Five, four, three, two, one.

Hon Mr Laughren: —in order to keep the deficit in check.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): You weren't fast enough.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): That was a very good try.

These agencies, Mr Treasurer, don't lower or raise your credit rating on the performance of the economy. They lower or raise your credit rating on your performance in managing finances and the economics of the government.

I ask the Treasurer, as your deficit numbers are considered to be way off by most experts—most fair-minded people would suggest that your deficit numbers are way off, that in fact we're looking at a \$12-billion or \$13-billion deficit—do you think the fabrication you came out with in your budget about a \$9.9-billion deficit had something to do with the credit rating drop?

Hon Mr Laughren: No, I certainly do not. I would remind the member opposite that Moody's just reaffirmed its AA rating, so I don't think the member opposite should treat this as though it were some cataclysmic event. And he's fundamentally wrong when he says the credit rating agencies don't take a look at the economy when they take into consideration the fact that the economy's going to experience a very slow recovery.

PETITIONS

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): The people in the county of Middlesex are very concerned about the greater London area annexation policy, and I have in hand a petition signed by some 37 people.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues

as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

HYDRO PROJECT

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): I have a petition signed by some 2,000 constituents in my riding, and it reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, supporters of the Kenora District Citizens Coalition for Minimum Impact Electrical Lines, request that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario require Ontario Hydro to reopen the consultation process for choosing a corridor for the Ontario-Manitoba interconnection project, so that (1) the Kenora district citizens affected will have meaningful input into the decision-making process, and so that (2) the chosen route will not be south of the CN line, and will have (a) minimum impact on the health of the people who live in the area; (b) minimum impact on the environment; (c) minimum impact as visual pollution and (d) minimum impact on property values and tourism."

I have signed my name to that as well.

1530

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have today about 12,000 petitions as part of the total which has now risen to 116,000 petitions to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways, without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million, represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers'

dollars which should be used to address the current, pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

These petitions have my signature and come from the five area ridings in the Hamilton-Wentworth area which are government ridings.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways, without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million, represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current, pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

I have signed this petition and submit it with the support of these people.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I present a petition signed by 25 citizens from the city of London and the county of Middlesex with the same preamble as read by the member for Ottawa East petitioning the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have signed the petition.

NURSING HOMES

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I present the following petition in regard to the funding of nursing homes for the aged from my constituents.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request that the government of Ontario immediately rectify the inequity in funding between nursing homes and homes for the aged. We strongly support the Ontario Nursing Home Association in their efforts to provide better care for nursing home residents through increased funding."

I have affixed my signature.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways, without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million, represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current, pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister, who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

I affix my signature.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I was just interested in the situation. I believe that when a situation like this comes up I guess I am supposed to say—thank you, Mr Speaker. Never mind.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I thank the member for Oakville South for his assistance and recognize the leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Let me thank the member for Oakville South who has, as he has indicated, demonstrated quick thinking, a Deputy Premier-like response to a situation that faced his leader where the media were far more interested and concerned than the government, the Treasurer and the Premier seemed to be about the downgrading of the credit rating of the province of Ontario by Standard and Poor's and the implications that would have for this province in attempting to borrow money. Gosh knows

we're on a track where we're going to have to borrow significantly large, huge new sums of money over this next period of time.

There are a lot of people who would like to comment on this budget. I will attempt not to take too much time today, but there are a number of points I know my caucus wishes me to make. There are a number of points Ontarians all across this province wish me to make, families, taxpayers, hardworking men and women who believed in this province with all their hearts, who believed that if they worked hard there was an opportunity to get ahead, who believed that Ontario was the province of hope and opportunity and became that way because of governments that understood that in public policy there must be a balance of the size and role of government, ie, how much taxation and borrowing is required to sustain it, and the private sector, individuals, taxpayers, families and consumers.

When we had that balance this province prospered and thrived. Indeed, many are saying to me repeatedly that for 42 years we were envied across this country. This province was envied around the world. Many immigrants from other countries and many Canadians from other provinces desired to come to Ontario because the investments seemed to come there, the prosperity, the jobs, the good-paying jobs, the education system, the quality of life, the environment, the clean water, the clean air, the safety on our streets.

The balance of government providing those services that were important to Ontarians was there, yet there was still enough room in the economy to make a buck. Businesses could invest and get a return on it. If you worked extra hard, you could get ahead and perhaps move from an apartment to a modest home, and if you worked extra hard and paid off the mortgage or paid it down, you could perhaps move into a little larger home.

1540

These dreams of home ownership, of advancing yourself, of working hard perhaps in the first 10 or 20 or 30 years of your working life so you could take it a little bit easier in your 60s and 70s and 80s, of providing a hope, an opportunity and a chance for our children and an opportunity for them to be able to succeed—we've lost that in this province. We've lost that.

I was out west in the fall, in Alberta, in Saskatchewan, in Manitoba. I met with politicians of all parties. I met with people on the street, with businesses, with taxi drivers. I talked to them all. I told them I was a Conservative politician from Toronto, from Queen's Park, from Ontario, and you know, not one person out there envied me. I have relatives out west, I have friends out west, and for 42 years it wasn't that way. In fact, many of them hated us. They said: "You get all the money. You get all the jobs. You got all the prosperity. It's not fair." I never heard that once in the whole week. What I heard was: "What's happened to Ontario? What did you do in Ontario to destroy the prosperity, the dream, the hopes, the aspirations?" They said, "Our young people aren't asking to go to Toronto for jobs, or the Golden Horseshoe or Ontario."

Indeed, we are hearing this now more and more around the world. For Europeans, if you look at the makeup of this province for 100 years, seeking an opportunity for a new

life, to be able to work for prosperity, for a better chance for their children, Ontario was the top of their list, and they're saying that's no longer the case. They're looking elsewhere. They're looking to other provinces. They are looking to other countries.

Investors and entrepreneurs from the Pacific Rim, from India, from Pakistan, from other countries where they may have had a product and some modest success in jurisdictions and they wanted to access the North American market—and where they would invest and build their plants and their distribution systems, they would create new jobs—they're now saying to us, "Ontario doesn't seem to want us, appreciate us, understand us." Realize that you have to be able to make a buck when you invest money, that you have to be able to keep something to reinvest to expand your plant.

I start this way so this Legislature and many of the newly elected NDP members will understand that this Ontario is not the same Ontario, not the same powerhouse, not the same jurisdiction of prosperity it once was, and this budget is brought down in that context. This budget is very similar to other budgets we've seen in the past seven or eight years. It's premised on the fact that government can spend an individual's money better than he or she can, government knows what families want more than families do, government knows what taxpayers want more than taxpayers themselves do.

We've gone through a period, when we look at the massive increase in government spending and role in life in our economy over these past eight budgets of this Liberal-NDP coalition, socialist, whatever you want to call them, they're all the same; they've all been based on the premise that government will spend two or three times, increase the rate of inflation more and more, and therefore we will tax from the people and borrow, which is future taxation our next generations will have to pay back, to feed this appetite for government spending and control of our lives.

Government has taken more and more control of our lives since 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990. Then last year's budget and now this one, where spending actually in this year's budget is up two and a half times the rate of inflation—worse than last year; a bigger bite of government involvement in our lives versus the private sector or individual's involvement than even last year's budget.

It is the cumulative effect of all of this that has made us—you can blame the Liberals if you want and I understand. That's perfectly fair and reasonable because, of these eight budgets, six of them were theirs. But surely, as you throw back, as I've heard in this House, blame on to the Liberals, it's time to look at your own house, because, as critical as you were when I was in opposition with many of you of the 33 tax increases that made us the highest-taxed jurisdiction in all of North America, you have carried on that same direction: \$1 billion in new taxes last year, another \$1 billion in new taxes this year and spending increases, and government involvement in our lives more and more than ever before.

When my party left office—this is a figure many of you won't understand; the Treasurer doesn't go back quite

that far in his table—the total government spending in the province of Ontario was \$26 billion.

I ask the backbench members of the New Democratic Party to think of where you were in 1985; to think of what life was like in 1985; to reflect on the fact that we had fewer portable classrooms, more hospital beds, fewer line-ups for food banks, surgery, medically necessary procedures, housing and day care. I ask you to think of 1985 and that we did it on a spending level of \$26 billion.

Our infrastructure was further ahead than it is today. Think of sewers, water, roads, garbage: all of those infrastructure investments were not nearly as far behind as they are today.

What have we accomplished for spending leading up to this budget that was \$53 billion—more than double? Inflation for the same period, from 1985 to 1992 before this budget was tabled, was about 40%. If governments from 1985 to before this budget had increased their spending at the rate of inflation they would have been spending about \$37 billion. If they had increased the spending over the 1985 level indexed for inflation and for new population, the total spending in Ontario going into this budget would have been about \$38 billion—\$15 billion less than you were spending after your last disastrous budget.

What do we have to show for it? What do Ontarians have to show for \$15 billion of new spending by Liberals, NDP and socialists? What do we have to show for it? We've got more poverty, more hunger, more need for food banks, more lineups for the health care system. We are worse off.

That is why, anticipating this budget, we gave the Treasurer the advice that the big spending ways of the past seven budgets were wrong for this province. They did not improve our lot in life; in fact, they made it worse.

1550

I know that pre-budget some people were talking that maybe it makes sense for government to borrow money in a recession and spend it to stimulate the economy; that would create some jobs. Don't you have to analyse how that's worked over the past 10 years and indeed in the past seven? If a government, borrowing money, running up a deficit or taxing, and taking that money to stimulate the economy, actually created half as many jobs as it destroyed, we'd be very prosperous in this province, because we're the master province for borrowing. We borrow more than any other province. We spend more than any other province in a country that is borrowing and spending more than virtually any other country, yet we're not booming.

It's why my caucus and I put out a document called *New Directions*. It's why in pre-budget submissions we said to the Treasurer, "You must move in a different direction from the last seven years, this direction of government taking over more and more of the economy and taxpayers and individuals and families less and less." That has not worked. We have fewer jobs now. We have less prosperity now. We are killing hope and opportunity. When we look at the specific measures of the budget, and I'll get into a few, we think of that. That's the tragedy of what you are doing.

You're patting yourselves on the backs and saying, "We're a little better than the Liberals" on this or that point. I liken that in some comments recently to fine-tuning the radio on the car: The station's a little staticky so you fine-tune the radio on the car with this bill or that bill or this program or that program—but the car's going over the cliff. You're headed in such a dangerous, disastrous direction for the future of this province that a lot of that little tinkering really doesn't matter very much.

This 1992 budget is the latest link in a chain of fiscal folly stretching back to 1985 and the tabling of that first Liberal budget. The 1985 budget the Liberals brought in established the policy of taxing and borrowing and spending that is still so lavishly followed by Floyd Laughren and Bob Rae and the NDP.

The taxpayers have simply moved from being gouged by Bob Tax-the-Ripper Nixon to being held up by Pretty Boy Floyd Laughren. That's about the only difference—that and the fact that the Liberals hiked taxes and increased the debt during good times while the NDP hike taxes and run up the debt during bad times. You NDPers were the ones who encouraged and supported the Liberals in running it up during good times. You said that was the time to hike taxes. Now we're in recessionary times and you're telling us that's the time to run up spending and hike taxes. The bottom line is that there are no more good times for Ontario taxpayers—absolutely none.

It must be difficult for the current Treasurer to listen to criticism of his budget from the Ontario Liberals who squandered the opportunities that were presented to them by the unprecedented economic boom of the mid- to late 1980s. If you think of the groundwork, the infrastructure that had been built up for 42 years—hydro, power, roads, schools, community colleges and universities and hospitals—if you think of the balance that was left in the system and the tax capacity that was still there because we were taxed not the highest, not the lowest but in the median with lots of room; the spending not the highest, the deficit not the highest, on balance we boomed from those middle 1980s because of the tough decisions that had been made in the early 1980s by a government that left this province poised to prosper. Those opportunities then came to the Liberal-NDP coalition and then to the Liberals and now to you.

It must be difficult to listen to the attacks on tax increases by the Liberals, a party which in office hiked taxes no fewer than 33 times, a party whose Treasurer, Bob Nixon, never met a tax he didn't like, who liked taxes so much he even created a whole new set of them. Who could remember these new things we'd never heard of: a tire tax, a commercial concentration tax—\$100 million or so out of Toronto, and look what a disastrous effect it's had on Toronto, on our tourism business, our convention business, the hotel business, on the head offices moving out of Toronto, not just because of the commercial concentration tax, but that was one of the nails in the coffin—the gas guzzler tax, brand-new, dreamed up by Bob Nixon, all these opposed by Floyd Laughren and the NDP. Now that you are in office they are perpetuated, carried on, expanded.

In 1984-85, before the first Liberal budget, provincial taxes in the province represented 8.8% of our economy. In 1990-91 after the Liberals' last budget, after the strongest sustained economic growth of the postwar period, provincial taxes represented 12.1% of our gross domestic product. Government taxes alone went up 50% in that short time that the Liberals were there.

In 1984-85 the per capita provincial tax burden in Ontario was \$1,688. Every Ontarian was responsible for \$1,688. The Liberals took over office, and after 33 tax increases the per capita tax burden, when you rascals took over, stood at \$3,448, an increase of 104% in five years and six budgets. I understand your chagrin, Treasurer, when the Liberals criticize your budget.

The Liberal record on spending, of course, is just as dismal. During a period of sustained economic expansion, when the economy was growing, when individuals were doing better, Liberal government spending never once fell below 15% of the gross domestic product, and in 1990-91 provincial spending accounted for 16.8%.

Over the period 1984-85 to 1991-92, program spending by Ontario governments increased at an average annual rate of 10.6%. Every other province in the Dominion was increasing its own expenditures at a slower rate: the federal government at 3.9%, David Peterson and the Liberals at 10.6%. That spending is what has precipitated the high taxes, the high deficit and the level of government involvement in our everyday lives.

The difference between all other nine provinces and Ontario is what has made the change from Ontario being the most prosperous province to Ontario becoming a have-not province. That is the difference, and the other provinces are benefiting but not happily. They would benefit more if Ontario were still strong, but they are benefiting. There's no secret that New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the prairie premiers and ministers of industry and trade are sending out the signal to Ontario businesses: "You want to pay less tax? You want to come where you're appreciated? You want to come to a jurisdiction where we understand? You want to come where you can work with government and labour together, not on a confrontational basis? Then pick any province other than Ontario."

1600

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Stop badmouthing your own province.

Mr Harris: I am badmouthing the leadership and the government of my own province, Mr Treasurer, and that is you. It is my role, when you head in a bad direction, to badmouth you and to point that out.

If the Treasurer wants to talk about this province, why then, in December and in this budget did he go to Ottawa and ask for an equalization payment for Ontario? Why is it we have sunk to the state where we're asking the taxpayers of Newfoundland, the Maritimes and the Prairies to bail Ontario out?

We've mishandled our affairs, our finances and our prosperity so badly over the last eight years that now we're saying to these other provinces that used to turn to us for help, that used to ask Ontario to help them to be able to

afford social programs and to have equality of access to health care services and education that we had: "Please bail Ontario out. We've mismanaged so badly we need your dollars now to come to Ontario to bail us out."

That's what has happened to this province in the past eight budgets in the past seven years under the Liberal-NDP joint government, then the Liberal government and now the NDP government. Like those Liberal budgets, like the 1991 budget, the 1992 budget that we are dealing with today continues and compounds those Liberal policy errors, those Liberal spending errors: more of the same, more taxes, more spending, more debt, more bad news for taxpayers.

In its pre-budget consultations, the standing committee on finance and economic affairs heard from Dr Ruth Getter of the Toronto-Dominion Bank: "I think the worst possible thing at this time is to burden Ontario with more taxes...there is a perception out there, both from the business side and the consumer side, that we are overtaxed."

It's more than a perception. It is a fact and reality that when you are taxed higher than 50 states and nine other provinces, all of which are the ones that you have to compete with for investment, for jobs, for factories, that you are likely to be overtaxed, or 50 states and nine provinces are all undertaxed, if that's what you're trying to tell us, but they seem to be surviving. They seem to be doing fine.

We talk about how great Ontario was and I still believe Ontario can be if we would move in a new direction. I'm often intrigued by how many businesses are lined up at the US border trying to get into Ontario; how many versus how many are trying to get out? This is the great tragedy that these policies of big spending, big government and big taxing have brought in.

This is what Dr Ruth Getter of the Toronto-Dominion Bank said. So what did we get? The Treasurer acted like a Liberal. He brought in another \$1-billion tax grab targeted at the middle class. He applied what used to be a high-income surtax to people making \$53,000 a year; so much for fairness, so much for the Agenda for People.

I travelled this province on behalf of my party, my caucus and 130 candidates, speaking on their behalf. I travelled and explained to them that we would have to control our spending, get our taxation levels in order. Bob Rae travelled this province in that summer of 1990 in the last election. He said: "Don't listen to Harris. We don't have to control spending. We can add another \$5 billion on our new Agenda for People. We can spend even more." They told Ontarians: "Don't worry. Somebody else will pay."

So now \$20,000-a-year earners found it was they who are going to pay more, some \$45 a year hike in their income tax, and \$53,000-a-year earners are now the rich and the famous in this province, according to the NDP. Many people are saying to me that in NDP Ontario you're rich if you're not on welfare, because if you're not on welfare, you've got your taxes hiked.

It's no wonder people lose faith in the equity of government programs. It's no wonder we hear with increasing frequency that some people are better off on welfare than working for a living. Indeed, the facts are many people are.

It's because when you are working you're working for one government or another. After they grab their share and the piece they want, you don't have enough left to afford a decent apartment or food or clothing for your family. Answer? Hike the taxes some more. That's what this budget brought forward.

The Treasurer justifies his tax grab by claiming—I like this one—that for every dollar he raised in new taxes, he found \$4 in savings. Savings from what? It's like saying, "Gee, I was going to spend \$100, but I only spent \$20, so I saved 80 bucks." Who are you trying to kid with this voodoo economics, this sleight of hand? You certainly didn't fool Standard and Poor's, who talked about that.

Spending is up 5%. It's a 5% increase in government spending this year, at a time when inflation is going up 2%. It's more than double the rate of inflation. That's an even bigger increase in spending than last year, and we all know how disastrous last year was. It's a higher increase in spending than any other provincial budget to date, and last year's of course was even higher than any other provincial budget to date, on top of six provincial budgets higher than any other province during that period of time.

The Treasurer brags his spending increase is the lowest since 1953, but his Treasury officials have acknowledged that when you take inflation into account, it is only the lowest since 1983. So he's saying, "Well, it's a lower spending increase than all the Liberals had for those years of the middle 1980s." Yes, and I think the Treasurer will acknowledge, and I will repeat one of the kind things I said about the budget, in spending it is better than the Liberals were at increasing spending. But I tell you, that's pretty faint praise, because it's not as good as all other nine provinces and it is on a base we can't sustain in this province.

I think it was Robert Sheppard—somebody I agree with, except when he talks about me—who said in the Globe and Mail last Friday, "The so-called spending cuts in the Laughren budget are something of a joke." But it's not a funny joke. We examined even this \$3 billion he said he was saving, and it's not a saving. He just said: "Oh, I was going to spend \$3 billion more. I decided not to. Look. Good for me."

Even of that \$3 billion he decided not to spend, let's look at it. The lion's share is taken out of transfer payment recipients, some by lower interest rates—no government action required there. Some are deferred expenditures of that great government escape hatch called program restructuring. You've only cut from your January projection, which was ludicrous, \$447 million of your own spending, so you've really not done very much yet, and much more needs to be done on a base of spending that is way too high for a government.

The government, which complains about federal transfer payment policies, now boasts that it's been able to keep its deficit under control. I don't understand that. We had a deficit of \$11 billion last year. With a net decrease in the growth of the economy of 1.5% we had a deficit of \$11 billion. Now, according to Standard and Poor's and other bond rating agencies, with a growth of 2.1% we're going to have a deficit of around \$12 billion, if you compare apples to apples, if you use the same figures.

We had a decline in the economy last year of 1.5%, and these projections are a growth in the economy of 2.1%, and the deficit's going up and the Treasurer says, "Look how good we did." That doesn't add up, Treasurer. That's why Standard and Poor's bumped your rating down.

1610

The NDP idea of restraint is to have its own spending account now for close to 20%—19.5%—of the provincial gross domestic product. That's up from 19.1% last year, so you're taking a bigger piece of the pie. There are less spending decisions being made by consumers—families, individuals, taxpayers—and more by the Treasurer and the Premier. You know what? They're not happy about the choices you're making for their money. They would like to make more of those choices themselves. You know what else? When consumers did make more of those choices themselves and when they spent the money themselves, they generated far more jobs and far more prosperity for the province than government spending could possibly generate. I want to say that the government wins no applause from us for what it perceives as a remarkable accomplishment.

You told hospitals, school boards, municipalities, colleges and universities they could live with a 1% increase. A 1% increase is what you told them. You said, "We'll have a little slush fund there for those of you who have more difficulties than others," but you sent them out to live within a 1% increase.

Treasurer, you'll recall that when you made that statement, again I came to your defence. I said: "The Treasurer is right. The transfer agencies can live with a 1% increase." You may think that was insignificant, but I think that was very unusual for an opposition party to come forward and say, "We'll join with you in helping explain to our transfer agencies that they're going to have to make do with less." The Liberals condemned you and said, "You've got to give them more money," but we supported you in that effort.

We also suggested some ways that you could make it easier for the transfer agencies by limiting increases in wages, which are 80% of their spending, to 1%, 2% and 2% as well. You didn't follow that advice, so some of the agencies are now laying off staff instead of keeping them employed at the level they were at plus 1%. We have far fewer nurses now in the hospitals.

Had you said, "We're in a crisis. We need your help in getting over this. We can all stay employed. Teachers, nurses, hospital workers, college professors and workers can all stay employed at a pretty decent salary, but it will only go up 1% this year," we would have had much fuller employment and we would have eased the transition. But now nurses are being laid off, teachers are being laid off, janitors are being laid off, workers are being laid off all across the province. I take no blame for that. I'm prepared to support you in the 1% solution, but you've got to give the transfer agencies the tools they need to do it, and you've failed to do that.

Then you turned around and in this budget, believe it or not, you said: "It's okay for hospitals, it's okay for colleges and universities, but we're going to hike our own

spending by 5%." In fact, if I take the \$20-billion transfer money out of that, it's up 6% or 7%, isn't it, Treasurer? You like to take out the interest payments and the other, but if I take out the transfer payments at 1%, it's up 6% or 7%.

Interjections.

Mr Harris: I have one more compliment left in my speech, and it may be the last one before the next election, so if the Minister of Health doesn't provoke me, it will come forward. If she does, I'll forget it.

You took an increase of 5%, five times what you told others they could live with. That's an increase higher than every other province, an increase five times higher. I guess because the feds gave you 5% more money, you said, "We'll hike our own spending 5%." I don't know what the rationale for it was, but it is two and a half times the rate of inflation, so we condemn this budget for not doing as it told others to do.

I don't want to sit down today, I don't want to finish today, without saying to the people of Ontario that there are alternatives. Yes, as an opposition party it's our role to criticize and to point out where the government's gone wrong. It's our role to point out that this direction they're going in is the same as the Liberal direction, and it is the wrong direction. We should criticize it, we should fight it, and I want to send this message out to taxpayers all across Ontario, to businesses large and small, to card-carrying union members concerned about the loss of their power to union bosses in the labour legislation. I want to say to card-carrying union members, to taxpayers, to citizens, to those who are working and those who are not, that we will fulfil our role of fighting tooth and nail for your rights that the NDP is trying to take away from you. We will fight tooth and nail for that money they are taking away from you, for that freedom they are taking away from you, for that loss of hope and for that loss of opportunity.

I also want the people of this province to know that we have a plan, we have a new direction we have offered to the government. It will still be applicable three years from now if you ignore the advice three years in a row. It will be more difficult three years from now, but we'll still be able to do it if that's what the voters in this province have to do. It would be in the interests of Ontarians and taxpayers in this province if you accepted our offer of cooperation and help and willingness to work with you in new directions today, right now.

We've ended up with more of the same because the government has done the same old thing; it has not taken any new directions. It continues to believe that big government and big deficits are the key to job creation and wealth generation, and that's not the case.

Before I get into my solutions, let me say to the Minister of Health, who interjected a few moments ago, that her willingness to come forward and say to the Treasurer, "I can manage the health care system with a 2% increase," was a courageous move. I applaud the Minister of Health for taking that initiative, and I suggest to the minister that she should be upfront with the stakeholders and tell them what that means, give them a dollar figure. Invite them in,

invite the opposition in, invite me in, invite others, the taxpayers and those who are using the services—not the doctors, not the politicians; more important than ourselves and the doctors and the nurses and those who draw their income from the system are the taxpayers and the Ontarians who use the health care system—and say: “Here’s the amount of money we have. Help us make decisions as to how we can spend it.”

There will be programs cut. There will be no more universality under your 2% solution. We know that, and I think Ontarians know that. If you would be upfront with them, if you would take some of the advice we gave you in New Directions and involve them, I think we could make the decisions we need to make to still have the best health care system in this province that my party built up over 42 years, to still have guaranteed universal access for every Ontarian regardless of geographic location, age, income or ability to pay. But you have not done that.

You’ve shown some courage. We don’t think you’ll be able to live up to it without arbitrarily cutting services, without involving the consumer. I think you could if you would do it in an upfront, planned way. So, as we talked about in New Directions, I repeat the offer to the government to assist with that.

In New Directions we also put forward for the government and the public’s consideration policy and program proposals which we believe would encourage growth, employment and investment in this province. We called for a change on Sunday shopping, but the budget instead is going to bring us casino gambling. We called for the establishment of community and industrial bond programming; the government has decided to stick with fiddling with pension funds and tax-supported worker buyouts. We called for a moratorium on the labour law changes, but government is determined to proceed with these reforms, which will discourage investment and will slow recovery.

1620

We called for selective tax cuts. You know, had you increased your own spending the same as you told hospitals, colleges, universities and municipalities they had a 1% increase, you could have cut taxes \$1 billion instead of hiked them \$1 billion. You could have said to Standard and Poor’s, “We have a plan and it makes sense.” They would have agreed with you.

We called for those selective tax cuts to stimulate consumption, to give more money back into the hands of taxpayers, consumers, families, individuals. That indeed would have stimulated the economy and created jobs.

We called for a balanced budget requirement, not some airy-fairy projections. We’ve seen those with every federal government for the last 30 years and now every provincial government in the last eight. It’s always next year, five years into the future, 10 years into the future. New Directions suggests that you’ve got to do better than that, Treasurer.

We’re going to have to limit ourselves. We’re going to have to be upfront and honest with the taxpayers and the citizens of this province about what we can and cannot afford. We offered to assist with that. We called for a

phase-out of the employer health tax for small business. Instead we got an extension of the employer health tax.

Mr Treasurer and Premier, I suggest to you that it will not come as a surprise to you in a partisan sense that we will oppose this budget. I want to tell you, though, that you’ve missed a marvellous opportunity, just as the Liberals before you missed opportunities, to help return this province to where it was for 42 years: the province of hope and opportunity, the province that led the world, the province that was envied across Canada and across the world. That should be the goal of the government. We have so many blessings in this province that none of us can take credit for: the resources; the trees—not as many as we once had, but more than most countries; clean water and air; geography, situated here on the Great Lakes; infrastructure—not as good as it was in 1985, but still better than most jurisdictions; our people.

Think of where we are in relation to many eastern European countries. For 50 years the work ethic has been stifled. Here it’s only been in the last seven that you’ve stifled the work ethic, particularly these last few budgets that have said, “Don’t upgrade yourself, don’t think about working overtime, don’t get an extra job, don’t work extra hours, don’t get a better education, don’t try and go for that promotion or raise, because if you do and you get to \$53,000, we’re going to take it all away from you anyway.”

That’s the signal you’ve sent out, and that’s the wrong signal, the wrong message that built this province. It indeed was when government policy rewarded initiative, rewarded hard work, when we allowed people who sacrificed a little now to save for later to keep that money and did not take it away from them after. That is what encouraged people to work hard and get ahead in this province. You are destroying that, Treasurer, with this budget. That is the biggest disaster of this budget.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Mr Harris moves that the amendment to the resolution moved by the Treasurer on 30 April be amended by adding after the word “economy” the following:

“recognizing that the tax policies proposed by the 1992 budget constitute an attack on the middle class and a betrayal of the government’s promise made in its Agenda for People to increase the fairness of the tax system; and

“recognizing that the 1992 budget is the latest in a series dating back to 1985 which through tax, borrow and spend fiscal policies have burdened this and future generations of Ontarians with higher taxes and more debt; and

“recognizing that the tax hikes imposed by the 1992 budget could have been avoided had the government adopted the same standard of spending restraint that it imposed on its transfer agency partners; and

“recognizing that the policies and programs proposed in the budget will fail to counterbalance the negative effects of the government’s policies on Sunday shopping and labour law reform on investors and on consumers; and

“recognizing that the budget understates the deficit and fails to provide a complete and accurate picture of the province’s financial position,

“Therefore believes that this government lacks the confidence of the House.”

Further debate? The honourable member for Hamilton Centre.

On motion by Mr Christopherson, the debate was adjourned.

Ms Wark-Martyn moved third reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la taxe de vente au détail.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable minister. No? Okay. Further debate on Bill 130? The honourable member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): You're supposed to call Bill 86, guys.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, just to clarify for the government benches, I understood that Bill 86 was supposed to be called next.

Mr Chiarelli: By all-party agreement, Bill 86 is supposed to be first.

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): Mr Speaker, it was my understanding that it was the reverse order. However, if people are prepared now to speak on Bill 86, on the gas tax, I ask for unanimous consent to revert back to that.

The Acting Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent that we revert to Bill 86? There is unanimous consent.

1630

GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
DE LA TAXE SUR L'ESSENCE

Ms Wark-Martyn moved third reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act / Loi portant modification de la Loi de la taxe sur l'essence.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Drainville): Any opening remarks? Any debate?

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): At the outset, I want to underline for any of the public who might be watching these deliberations, in order that they not become confused, that when we look at Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, we are addressing a bill that comes out of last year's budget of April 29, 1991. Of course, we have now had delivered the current budget of April 30, 1992. Some of the issues members will want to address will apply to the 1991 budget, namely, Bill 86, and some of them will also apply to the impact of Bill 86 on the current budget of April 30, 1992.

I did want to make a couple of preliminary comments, particularly with respect to the member for Nipissing, the leader of the third party. I note in his comments and the comments of some of the other members of the third party, particularly the member for Carleton, Mr Sterling, they will frequently address their budgetary comments not only to the NDP government but also to the previous Liberal government.

I can only say it's done on a regular basis and it's done because the members on that side know the NDP will be a one-term government. The contest next time will be with

the Liberals as the front runners and perhaps the Tories running hard to catch us. So it is quite normal to see that the Tory members are regularly and always criticizing the former Liberal government because, as I said, they know this NDP government is a one-term government.

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: I call the member for Etobicoke West to order. I believe the member for Ottawa West has the floor.

Mr Chiarelli: It is absolutely amazing that at random the third party can throw lobs and grenades at the Liberal Party over here, the official opposition, yet if we address their political comments, they react very violently. I suppose that's understandable, because when you're third you try harder.

I want to address the fact that Bill 86 represents a bill coming out of the April 29, 1991, budget and not the 1992 budget. Bill 86 taxes the people of Ontario very heavily. We see particularly in this budget that the government has so-called job creation programs. It allocates hundreds of millions of dollars for one program or another and claims it allocates billions of dollars for other job creation programs.

The government and economists try to use some usual formula for determining what the job creation impact of spending will be. It also works in reverse: when a government taxes and takes money out of the system, it costs jobs. Bill 86 costs jobs in Ontario. The \$1-billion tax in the budget of last week cost jobs in Ontario. In fact, it cost 25,000 jobs. The issue is jobs.

I want to refer to this year's budget and how it will multiply the impact of Bill 86 from last year's budget in terms of costing jobs in Ontario. Let's look at this year's budget from a jobs perspective, and we will relate it to Bill 86, Mr Speaker. First, we predict the \$1 billion coming from 12 tax increases will kill 25,000 jobs in Ontario. That's the same formula governments use to say that jobs will be created when they allocate money for capital spending, for example.

They can't have it both ways. They can't indicate in a budget that by spending money they are creating jobs and then leave out of the calculation the \$1 billion they're taking out of the system which will cost jobs. By all standard calculations, the \$1 billion in taxes they're taking from consumers, the regular people, taxpayers and individuals across this province, will cost 25,000 jobs.

The budget takes more money out of individual pockets and hurts consumer confidence. There is little in this budget to encourage private business to invest and create new jobs in Ontario. In fact, there's been a haemorrhaging of jobs and red ink in this economy over the last year. There are 609,000 people unemployed in Ontario today. In March alone, more than 1,000 Ontarians lost their jobs every day. The jobless rate in this province is at 10.5%.

If I can address this government's so-called job creation budget of last week, the 90,000 jobs the NDP is claiming to create through Jobs Ontario is in fact a training program disguised as a job creation program and does not create long-term jobs. Training is good; we've got to put dollars

into training and job retraining to become competitive, but it is very deceptive to say, when you put money into job training, that is job creation. The two simply don't compute, and I believe that is a misrepresentation in the budget. Many other members have referred to that as well.

I also want to refer to another provision in the budget of last week, the \$2.3-billion, five-year Jobs Ontario capital fund which allocates only \$500 million for 1992-93. They throw big figures around; they're talking in terms of \$2.3 billion, but when you read the small print they're only allocating \$500 million for 1992-93. That's what the people who don't have jobs in Ontario today are looking at. They're looking at the numbers for 1992-93.

This should be compared to last year's budget where there was a so-called \$700-million capital creation program. That program, through midyear adjustments, was reduced to a mere \$400 million, which was part of this past year's disastrous scenario. The prospect is for about the same results.

They took \$700 billion for capital creation last year. They reduced it in-year to \$400 million. We have seen the disastrous scenario of job losses and yet in this year's budget they're reallocating a mere \$500 million for job creation, which is less than last year's allocation and which we will certainly have to tie into last year's results, which were absolutely no job creation but continual and constant job hemorrhaging.

I want to refer to the Jobs Ontario homes fund. It is estimated to create 2,400 jobs—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Ottawa West will know that he is really leaving the track far behind in terms of his consideration of Bill 86. I would ask him to focus his remarks on the bill, so that we can continue to hear the obviously important remarks that the honourable member has to make on this important question.

Mr Chiarelli: I appreciate your comments, Mr Speaker, but if I may, with respect, Bill 86 takes a lot of money out of the system. It takes money out from taxpayers. It costs jobs, on the same rationale that putting money into the system supposedly creates jobs.

We're looking at a budget bill and with a budget bill traditionally in this place the Speakers have allowed the debate to refer to budgetary provisions generally and relate one budget bill to another budget bill. I can understand your concerns, Mr Speaker, but I will very quickly, within 90 seconds, be moving directly into Bill 86, so I ask you to please bear with me on that particular point.

The last point I wanted to make is that the Jobs Ontario homes fund is estimated to create 2,400 jobs for 1992-93. That's not close to the 25,000 job losses that will result from the \$1 billion in tax increases and it doesn't come anywhere close to picking up the job losses that are flowing through from last year to this year as a result of the tax increases in Bill 86. Mr Speaker, my comments are very relevant, with respect.

1640

On balance, I want to say that the job situation is very critical. Last year's budgetary provisions, which we're just

debating now, impact on it, and this year's budget doesn't do any catch-up whatsoever for the job losses over the last year. The whole issue of job losses, whether they come from Bill 86 tax increases or what have you, is very significant. What is important is to have business confidence, for the international investment community to have confidence in this government so that it will invest and create jobs.

The budget of 1992 creates a lot of problems in that area and the budget of 1991 creates many problems as well. I do want to address the 1991 budget bill, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, in some detail. Just to set the scene, I want to let you know that there is a problem with respect to gasoline pricing in the Ottawa-Carleton area, particularly within the municipal limits of the region of Ottawa-Carleton.

I want to spend some time addressing this issue. I had hoped to be able to address my comments last December when these bills were first up, but apparently the agenda became very crowded. At that time, I did want to move some amendments to this bill in committee of the whole, which is not available at the present time, but I'm going to ask the minister, who's sitting in her place, if she would give some consideration, after hearing the concerns of the residents of Ottawa-Carleton, to looking at the issue of gasoline prices and how the gasoline tax increase impacts on the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

I am going to refer at some length to various correspondence and newspaper articles. A lot of investigative journalism has taken place in Ottawa with respect to this issue. I want to say that the issue has been very high-profile in Ottawa-Carleton, beyond belief. I am talking about radio programs and newspaper articles day after day, week after week, month after month, and petitions and action by consumers in a very significant way.

The members of this Legislature are not aware of it. The government is not aware of it because we have one NDP member from Ottawa-Carleton, the member for Ottawa Centre, Ms Gigantes, who will not raise a voice on local concerns in the Ottawa area. Mr Speaker, you can differ with me or members on the opposite side can differ with me, but I would bet my life that they don't know anything about the gasoline pricing problem in Ottawa-Carleton. Perhaps the minister does, but the members don't. The government doesn't because the member for Ottawa Centre sits on her hands, buttons her lips and does not become an advocate for important issues for the people of Ottawa-Carleton in this Legislature.

So, Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, to set the scene, I want to refer to a fairly lengthy article, "Pumped Up for Lower Gas Prices," the Ottawa Citizen, October 19, 1991.

It's headlined, "Savings of 11 Cents per Litre Can Be Found Outside the City." This article is written by an Ottawa Citizen business writer, Kristin Goff, who has been following this issue like a dog with a bone. She just wouldn't let it go, and did a lot of reporting and a lot of investigation. That's why I'm prepared to take the time to read this article into the record. I will refer to other articles in other papers as well to highlight the problem in Ottawa-Carleton.

I'll start. This is the article from the Ottawa Citizen:

"If you're mad as hell about high gasoline prices in Ottawa and after 22 weeks of posting one of the highest prices in the province

"If you're mad as hell about high gasoline prices in Ottawa—and after 22 weeks of posting one of the highest prices in the province, who isn't?—you don't have to take it any more. You can take a 45-minute drive to Smiths Falls and pay 48.9 cents a litre, burning up on the way home some of the 10.1-cents-a-litre savings from the average price in Ottawa.

"If you're not quite mad enough to drive that far, you might want to try Winchester, where the going rate was 52.7 cents this week. Or head south down Highway 31, and find prices from Ottawa city limits to Metcalfe in the 53 to 53.3 range. It may be the closest thing Ottawa has to a gasoline alley."

The next headline says, "Highway 31 Bargains."

"There are 10 stations between Leitrim and the Metcalfe turnoff, and that makes all the difference, says Joan Bradley of Drummonds Gas. 'There's one every few feet. I would say that's why we're lower than Ottawa. There's so much competition,' she said. But the theory doesn't hold true for the inner city gas strips found in such areas as Carling Avenue."

That is in my riding, and the people in my riding are concerned about gasoline prices, very, very significantly.

"There are nine stations on Carling in a short stretch between Pinecrest and Kirkwood, yet the going rate at every one is 59.9 cents a litre, except for an unbranded station, Francis Fuels, at 59.4 cents.

"There are a few relative bargains to be found in certain spots in the city. Pioneer on Rideau Street downtown, which staged a much-publicized bargain gas sale for a few days last month, is selling for 55.9 cents a litre.

"Along Cyrville Road, where Seaway Gas several times sparked short-lived gas wars, the price is 56.5 cents, and at TopValu on Montreal Road near St Laurent it will cost you 56.3 cents a litre.

"There are also cheaper prices as you head east into Orleans and beyond, or west in some spots in Kanata and to the west. You may find better prices than we did in a spot check of the area."

I'll leave out some of the article, but I will go on and read a quote here:

"Still, like Linda Potter, who lives south of Ottawa in the Manotick area, many people believe there is a price barrier around the Ottawa-Carleton region. 'It's terrible. You wonder where the line is around Ottawa. Prices are always so much higher,' says Potter, who, with her husband, watches prices closely because they have trucks to fuel for a small family business.

"At least one oil company official sort of agrees, although he doesn't think it is at all terrible. Keith Jackson, a spokesman for Shell Canada, says, 'There is a minimum of competition in the Ottawa marketplace'—"

The Acting Speaker: I'd ask the honourable member to take a seat for a moment. As the honourable member will know, quoting at length from documents generally isn't accepted in the House. I've given you three minutes

of quoting that particular article. I believe that is giving you a great deal of latitude. If there is any other information you wish to share with the House, if you could paraphrase it and move on, I'd appreciate that.

Mr Chiarelli: Mr Speaker, I will defer to your ruling. However, I think it is very contrary to the nature of the imposition of that rule by former Speakers, and I think particularly of many debates when members from the NDP government were on this side.

Mr Speaker, I see the Minister of Revenue laughing on the other side. Because of that, I'm going to indicate to you, with respect, that this is a very well-thought-out, researched document that is very relevant to gasoline prices in Bill 86, and I will say that my constituents in Ottawa West and Ottawa-Carleton will not be happy if you don't permit me to read the rest of this article into the record. Mr Speaker, I will read in conclusion a mere three paragraphs which are statistical in nature and then I will go on to some additional comments.

"The latest provincial government survey again shows Ottawa and Timmins tied for the highest-priced gasoline at 59 cents a litre.

"It was the 22nd time in the past 23 weeks"—that's important enough to quote—"that Ottawa had either the highest or the second-highest gas price of the 16 markets surveyed. It came in third one week in July.

"The latest survey shows Thunder Bay at 58.3 cents a litre, Sudbury at 57.3, North Bay 54.4 and Sault Ste Marie 53.4.

Mr Speaker, the last sentence of the article, and I'm sure you will appreciate it, says, "The average price in Toronto was 49.9 cents in the survey taken Wednesday and released Friday."

1650

Mr Speaker, there were some other comments in here and statistics that are very relevant. I apologize for not committing them to memory. Next time I will in order that I can represent the interests of the constituents in Ottawa-Carleton. I do take objection to your comment. I have other things I'm going to read into the record and I hope you'll have some additional patience for the sake of the constituents in my riding and the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I will very briefly refer to an additional article which quotes the member for Welland-Thorold in this particular instance. I can say parenthetically, Mr Speaker, as one who was interested in current events before your election, I am sure you watched with delight his filibuster in this Legislature where he quoted from documents at length without any undue interruption from the Speaker. I do want to quote him now very briefly.

This is in a local newspaper in the member's area. It's the Tribune of Friday, October 18, 1991:

"Kormos—the outspoken New Democrat MPP from Welland-Thorold who has openly criticized the performance of his party's government on numerous occasions—was at it again as he joined Haeck"—that's the member for St Catharines, Christel Haeck—"to discuss a number of political issues."

I'm referring this quote to my comments previously on the inaction of the member for Ottawa Centre, Evelyn Gigantes, on this—

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It is definitely confusing for many members in this House that there are two ridings that have St Catharines in them. I represent the riding of St Catharines-Brock. Mr Bradley represents the riding of St Catharines for the Liberals.

The Acting Speaker: That was certainly a point of information and I thank the honourable member.

Mr Chiarelli: At least the people out in the audience will now know who I'm referring to in this particular article which does refer to her. I do apologize for leaving the last part of her riding name out when I referred to her.

"During the half-hour interview Kormos took several shots at the Bob Rae government, saying it seemed to be concerned only with Toronto and was clearly out of touch with the rest of the province.

"The problem is, you've got politicians up there in Toronto that won't take the time to get out of their limousines and talk to real people,' Kormos said" on the member's program.

I'm continuing my quote here very briefly: "The disdain that people feel about politicians, well, I'll tell you, politicians have earned it,' Kormos said, wrapping up his comments." He was talking about—

Ms Haeck: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: While the member is referring to a particular television program which I'm not sure he saw in its entirety, I was in fact in attendance and all the things he is saying so far are very far from the point of this particular bill. I personally would appreciate that he actually return to the subject of the bill and the debate.

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order at this point. I thank the member for St Catharines-Brock.

Mr Chiarelli: When the member was trying to remember the name of her riding, I think she didn't hear me make the connection. The connection I made was that this issue on Bill 86 that I'm referring to in a particular way which impacts in the Ottawa-Carleton area should have been represented in this Legislature by the member for Ottawa Centre, Ms Gigantes, which she did not do. All I am saying is that the member for Welland-Thorold agrees with me that a lot of the decision-making is Toronto-based and Toronto-directed and that it's very difficult to get this government to look at things from a regional perspective.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think it is very important that we have a quorum. It would be in order, and not having one, it would be preferable if some government members came in, I think, sir.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1657

The Acting Speaker: As the quorum is now present we will resume debate. The honourable member for Ottawa West.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I see you've got some people to listen to you now.

Mr Chiarelli: The member of the third party says we have some people to listen to us now. That's part of the problem. The government doesn't have enough people listening.

We are, as I mentioned, dealing with Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, from last year's budget. Of course, there are hundreds of millions of dollars of taxation which come out of this legislation, and that impacts very significantly on the question of jobs. In addition to impacting on jobs, there is a very significant cross-border shopping issue which is a geography-related impact of this legislation.

There's another geographic impact of this legislation, and that is with respect to the Ottawa-Carleton area. Although it's not cross-border shopping, there is something wrong with the gas pricing system and the gas taxing system when it can have that type of impact on the Ottawa-Carleton area.

The minister knows full well, and I will refer to that a bit later, that the government of last year made special provision to address high gasoline prices in the north. I'm trying to address the fact that there should be special provision made with respect to gasoline taxation or pricing in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

While the government can address the northern problem, the statistics here, which are very clear, indicate that the government should at least give consideration to and address the problem in Ottawa-Carleton so that at least the people in Ottawa-Carleton will know why they are burdened with such high gasoline prices that I managed to slip in by quotation.

On the face of it, the bill appears to treat all parts of the province equally, as I mentioned. It appears to place an equal, additional burden on the drivers of this province. This is far from the truth.

Just over a year and a half ago the Premier, then Leader of the Opposition told the Thunder Bay Times—this is the Premier who introduced this massive gasoline tax hike, also the speaker who will not address the disparity in pricing in the Ottawa-Carleton area:

"He restated a campaign promise made last week that the NDP government would empower the provincial energy commission to bring in a one-price system for gasoline in the province. 'I really think consumers are being ripped off by gas companies.'"

That's a quote from the Premier and that's only a little over 18 months ago. I'd like to know what the Premier meant when he said that.

We're seeing a very major broken promise here. The Premier is doing absolutely nothing to solve the situation with respect to gasoline disparity in the province, at least not with respect to the problems of cross-border shopping in those communities and certainly not with respect to the needs of the people of Ottawa-Carleton.

I referred a minute ago to the fact that last year's budget removed the annual licence fee for northerners, representing a \$15-million subsidy for northern Ontario gas prices. I see a northern member applauding, and I applaud it too. I

would not want to see the government take away that very reasonable and rational initiative for the people of the north, but this government has done nothing but monitor gasoline prices in the Ottawa-Carleton area. You can see that the price per litre in the Metropolitan Toronto area versus the Ottawa-Carleton area is a 10-cent-per-litre discrepancy. I simply ask why.

The people in Ottawa-Carleton—journalists, elected officials, the mayor of the city, the regional chairman—have written letters saying: "Please look into it. Do something for us. If there's a logical answer, fine, we'll bite the bullet," but they didn't have to bite the bullet up north. They got a \$15-million subsidy for northern Ontario gas prices.

I honestly believe the Minister of Revenue is not aware of the gas discrepancy as it exists in the Ottawa-Carleton area, I hope she will listen to some of my comments and address some of the concerns raised in the other documents I will refer to, because it's significant. She doesn't know it, nor does the Minister of Energy know it, because none of this material was brought to their attention by the member for Ottawa Centre. In a sense, the people in Ottawa-Carleton are at a disadvantage, perhaps, because they only have one member to turn to. On the other hand, this is such a significant issue in Ottawa-Carleton it should be high on the agenda, on the priority list, for the member for Ottawa Centre to bring it to the attention—

The Acting Speaker: I would like to bring to the attention of the House the fact that the member for Ottawa West has the floor. There are many conversations going on right now that shouldn't be going on and I'd ask for some attention to be paid to the honourable member for Ottawa West.

Mr Chiarelli: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate that.

I want to go back to the Premier. I referred to a quote of the Premier's a few minutes ago. I want to go back to another quote. I think it's very important to look at where the Premier's head space was when he was in opposition, when he was pretending to represent all the people of Ontario. It's a totally different story today when we look at what's happening in Bill 86, the imposition of that very burdensome tax on cross-border communities, like people in Ottawa-Carleton, like people in the north, who have to be subsidized on their gasoline prices because the prices have gone up so high.

If I can refer again to the Premier, not only did the Premier promise a one-price gas system for Ontario but on August 13, 1990, he told a radio audience that he "would ensure the province had the legal power to prevent gas price gouging."

Mr Stockwell: He didn't say that, did he?

Mr Chiarelli: Yes, to the member of the third party, he did say that.

Even after assuming office, several days after the election, the Premier told the Toronto Star "he vows to bar price gouging by oil companies."

What is going on with these people who call themselves responsible government? From September 1990 to

April 29, 1991, a few short months, he's gone from being the protector and the defender of the people over high gasoline prices in different communities across the province to imposing this unbelievable Bill 86, which we are only debating today.

I might add how strange it is that we're debating Bill 86 today, a 1991 budgetary provision, even after the 1992 budget has been introduced. I can only remind the public that this government delayed bringing this Legislature back for two weeks according to the normal calendar, for no reason whatsoever, when we could have done these bills in proper sequence before the next budget had come in so that we wouldn't have the overlap.

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue):

On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like to remind the member across the floor that it was I who brought in his previous Liberal tax bills. Why could he not wait until after the election and do his bills before the election?

The Acting Speaker: There is no point of order.

Mr Chiarelli: I am absolutely happy that the member will stand up and acknowledge that she's prepared to implement good legislation that the Liberals had previously commenced, such as the Attorney General has done on several other bills earlier this week.

Perhaps I can refer to the statistics again, just to put it in context. I'm going back to October or November, when the latest provincial government survey showed that Ottawa and Timmins were tied for the highest-priced gasoline at 59 cents a litre. At the same time, over that period the average price in Toronto was 49.9 cents a litre.

I want to refer to another newspaper article. I'm going to ask your indulgence—it's not that long—and I'm going to read it because I think it's extremely instructive. I could stand here and pretend to paraphrase it, but I want to be upfront. I just want to take the time to very briefly read it, and it won't be that long.

This is an article that was printed in the Ottawa Sun, Thursday, June 27, 1991. It is headlined, "Ottawa's High Gas Prices a Capital Offence: The Fix Is On," by Ron Corbett, the business editor.

"If you know anyone in this city who believes he's paying a fair price for gasoline then show him this column. If you are such a person, then sit down and get ready for an awakening.

"Yesterday, I received a phone call from Mohamed Bassuny, manager of Seaway Gas on Cyrville Road. You may remember Bassuny. In March he became a minor media celebrity when he tried to drop the price of gas at his station and found he couldn't.

"Bassuny's competitors complained to the owner of Seaway about the price drop. The owner was duly pressured to jack the price back up. Bassuny waived his commission in order to keep the price low and then the whole thing came crashing down when Bassuny's pumps went dry and no gas supplier could be found to refill them.

"Only after publicly stating he was raising his price did a gas shipment arrive.

"Since that time, Bassuny has quietly gone about his business. But two days ago, hungry for some of the overflow

business he was getting back in March, he decided to lower his prices again.

"Bassuny dropped his price on unleaded gasoline by two cents a litre to 54 cents. The price cut, however, didn't please his competitors. On the very morning of the price change he was visited by the owner of a nearby gas station.

"Bassuny, who says he has been harassed and threatened since his price cuts last March, tape recorded the ensuing conversation. Here are parts of that conversation:

"Mohamed, you're doing the same thing," said Bassuny's competitor, who then tried to convince Bassuny to jack his prices back up, promising to match Seaway's price and not undercut the station.

"When Bassuny said he was sticking with his price, the other gas station owner promptly threatened him: 'I'm going to go underneath you in prices. I'm telling you right away because I don't f--- around. I can undercut you both ways, all the time, until you get fed up and go back up. I can play nice and I can play f---ing mean.'" That's the quote from the article.

"What the gas station owner meant by 'both ways' was the price of Bassuny's cigarettes. As well as selling cheap gas, Bassuny sells cheap cigarettes—\$5.50 a pack—and his competitors want to dictate the price of those as well."

1710

If I can digress just a minute from the quote, I just want to indicate that the question of gasoline pricing has to do with gasoline taxes. It also has to do with being sensitive to geographical conditions, as people say about cross-border shopping and as people say about the north where they receive the subsidy. What this investigative reporter has been doing here is trying to indicate that there are special circumstances affecting gasoline prices in Ottawa-Carleton, not the least of which is the question of competition. That's very relevant to the whole issue of Bill 86.

If I can go back to the quote just for a moment: "After the threat came the promise of a little sugar if Bassuny did what he was told. 'If you play right,' the station manager said, 'you can make money.'" This was all tape recorded by Mr Bassuny and the tape was played for this particular reporter. I want that to be in the record of this Legislature.

"This tape is the most telling evidence I have ever run across on how the price of gasoline is established in the local marketplace.

"Oil company public relations men working out of posh offices in Toronto will mouth off endlessly about market forces establishing the price of gas in Ottawa and it all sounds nice and polite and fair, and the truth bears not the scantiest resemblance to what they're saying.

"The price of gas is set by conversations like the one above. It's set by threats made to station managers who dare lower prices. It's set by intimidation and backroom deals.

"It's set, in short, criminally."

Then the article goes on to indicate that this matter was referred to the federal competition minister and ministry and it was referred to the Minister of Energy and very little happened as a result of it. Mr Speaker, in deference to your concern, I've left out a fair amount of the article and I just want to wind up with a few more quotes here.

"As the competition cops plod along in secrecy, Ottawans continue to pay the second-highest prices in the province for gasoline." That's the second-highest behind a marketplace that is subsidized. "It's been that way for months now—Timmins pays the highest; Ottawa the second-highest. It's as predictable as a fixed horse race."

There has been some correspondence between elected officials in the Ottawa-Carleton area and the Minister of Energy and there hasn't been much satisfaction to it. But I just wanted to, as I move into the next part of my presentation—

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Diatribe.

Mr Chiarelli: Diatribe, some people might say. I would like the member opposite from the NDP government to tell the constituents of Ottawa-Carleton that by putting this on the record on their behalf, it's a diatribe.

I want to repeat that on August 13 the Premier told a radio audience he would ensure the province had the legal power to prevent gas price gouging. If he honoured that promise, he would be able to deal with Mr Bassuny's problem. But he has not come through with that promise to deal with the extraordinary market influences on the price of gasoline, particularly as we see them operating in the Ottawa-Carleton area. He also indicated, as I said, that he would support a "one-price system" across the province, and I use the Premier's quote in that particular instance.

I want to look at a bit more of the record, particularly the fact that even the Toronto Sun, Mr Speaker—so you certainly must give me some additional liberties now because I'm going into the area of the province that has so much credibility and substance and so much action out of the Queen's Park government so often that even the Toronto Star of April, 6, 1991, refers to this problem. I will précis some of my quotes.

"Investigators are asking why Ottawa and Sudbury consumers have been paying up to 14 cents a litre more than Toronto prices...

"The Ontario Energy ministry's latest gasoline price survey, released yesterday, shows the average price of regular unleaded was 60.6 cents a litre in Ottawa and 60.1 cents in Sudbury as of last Wednesday.

"That compared to 52 cents in Kingston, 48.5 cents in Peterborough, 48.5 cents in west Toronto, 46.3 cents in east Toronto and 45.7 cents in Windsor.

"In Thunder Bay, North Bay and Timmins, prices ranged between 61 and 62 cents."

The last paragraph of this particular article, written by Jonathan Ferguson in the Toronto Star, indicates, "Her ministry is considering encouraging local initiatives to start up gasoline cooperatives that run on a non-profit basis or pay out dividends to members.

"Another possibility, she said,"—we're talking about the then Energy minister—"might be tax breaks as a way to keep gas prices lower in the north."

As we've seen, they have done some accommodating for the north with the licence fees. But the suggestion that they would consider introducing cooperatives as a way to deal with this issue is absolutely ludicrous, and it basically

discloses a very naïve NDP philosophy, which we've seen over the past 18 months.

Another article from the *Ottawa Citizen* of October 8, 1991, basically addresses the fact—there's some very good investigative journalism—that publicity campaigns which are led by the media and by consumers don't work. They refer to some quotes, some experiences in the Sudbury area where that was tried, and the quote in this article, an article by Kristin Goff again in the *Ottawa Citizen*, refers to Sudbury Star reporter Malcolm Scully, who said the newspaper's campaign is not intended to replace government action to guard against price fixing or other problems in the market.

The paper had been publishing the lowest gasoline price it could find in the area since early last winter. "The campaign appeared to be highly effective when it first started and even triggered some price wars, Scully said, but interest has waned and prices haven't been changing much recently," and they've gone back up.

I have a letter from a constituent that I won't put into the record, but it is a very significant letter from a concerned consumer addressing the price of gasoline in my riding, Ottawa West. He's referring particularly to the fact that the government has been monitoring prices, but it has done nothing.

The figures I'm showing here are from the regular gasoline survey that is conducted by the Ministry of Energy. They have done nothing about it, at least not in Ottawa-Carleton; they have up north. I congratulate the northern members and the people in the north for having that benefit, but certainly the people in Ottawa-Carleton don't have that benefit.

The people in Ottawa-Carleton don't even necessarily want special treatment. They're not even saying, "Amend this law," or, "Amend that law." They're saying, "Please find out the answers why." Does the Minister of Revenue know why gasoline prices within the boundaries of Ottawa-Carleton are five to 10 cents a litre higher? "Oh, competition," they say, "It's just competition." Well, some of the information I've put into the record indicates that is not an answer.

1720

There needs to be a fundamental review. The question of gasoline pricing, the question of Bill 86, which is a tax on gasoline, goes much beyond a mere tax. It deals with a fundamental component of our economy, the price of fuel, the price of gasoline, which affects border communities, which impacts on the economies of the north—which was able to get special treatment—and impacts on the consumers in Ottawa-Carleton, many of whom are retired. My riding of Ottawa West has one of the largest number of retired residents of any riding in Canada. They're feeling the squeeze and they can't understand why, in order to get a reasonable price for gasoline on a comparative basis, they've got to drive 60 or 70 kilometres.

I don't have the answer. Had the agenda not become so crowded in November and December of last year, I would have moved an amendment to this legislation deferring the gas tax increase as it applies to Ottawa-Carleton until such time as the Minister of Revenue or the Minister of Energy

conducted proper investigation into gasoline pricing in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

That's all we were asking in Ottawa-Carleton. We weren't asking for special treatment. We were saying: "Second some people, a few people from a couple of the ministries. Do a consulting contract to a couple of experts. Go out and find the reasons why gasoline prices in Ottawa Carleton are always higher than everywhere else in the province, with one exception, week after week after week." We're not asking for very much. We're not asking for any money. We're not asking for budgetary considerations. We're simply saying: "Come clean. Be fair."

To be fair, the Premier, on the eve of his election, supported a one-price gas system across the province. He supported putting some teeth into the law to prevent the type of gas gouging and the type of manipulation Mr Bassuny was referring to in that taped conversation with his competitors.

That's not asking for a lot. There are 600,000-plus people in Ottawa-Carleton. That's a very significant part of this province. They've had no response from the Minister of Energy. They've had no response from the Minister of Revenue. They've had no representation from the member for Ottawa Centre on this very important issue.

Mr Speaker, I will say, out of deference to your comments earlier, there are a lot more media coverages I'm not going to refer to, because I hope I can make my point without referring to those media—

Interjections.

Mr Chiarelli: The NDP said, "Just keep going and see what happens." They want me to test you, Mr Speaker, but I won't do that, because I respect the Chair.

Although I won't refer to newspaper articles, I want to refer to a number of pieces of correspondence, including some from this government, to interested parties.

I want to refer first of all to a letter to the then minister two ministers ago. We are on our third Minister of Energy at this point. Perhaps that's the reason why we're not getting any responsiveness on this issue of gasoline pricing. This was addressed to the Honourable Jenny Carter, the former minister, and some of the other correspondence I will refer to will refer to Mr Ferguson. I don't think we have anything quite yet from the interim minister at the present time. In any case, this is a letter dated August 30, 1991, and it's addressed to the Honourable Jenny Carter, Ontario Minister of Energy:

"As the mayor of the city of Ottawa, I am writing to you asking for your assistance into the investigation of unjust high gasoline prices in the Ottawa area.

"We, in the nation's capital, are paying more per litre for gasoline than any other city in all of Ontario. I am requesting that you, as minister, take firm action to bring forth a study or investigation as to why gasoline prices are so irregular between southern and eastern Ontario.

"The price that Ottawa consumers pay is not acceptable or fair. It is time the province took the initiative, as they did in northern Ontario, and not only explained the high price but also offered some form of solution. These

high pump prices are having an adverse effect on our tourism industry here.

"I urge you to address the negative impact these high prices have on the Ottawa consumers and take immediate action to correct this injustice to our local motorists.

"I appreciate your attention and look forward to an early reply.

"Yours sincerely" and it is signed by the mayor of Ottawa.

The province continues to ignore this type of plea coming from the Ottawa area. Where is the member for Ottawa Centre? Has this Minister of Revenue even seen this letter from the mayor of Ottawa? He's not some stump alderman in some boondocks; he's the mayor of the capital city of Canada. It's also a regional council for a municipality that represents 600,000 people.

I bet my life again that this Minister of Revenue sitting across from here has not even heard of this letter, nor has the member for Ottawa Centre brought it to her attention. Yet we're here expecting quick passage of Bill 86, a bill that retroactively increases the price of gasoline to the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

I also want to refer again to a resolution of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton dated September 11, 1991. I want it on the record because the people in Ottawa-Carleton want to know that their voice is being heard. It is not being heard from the member for Ottawa Centre and it is not being heard from the two ministers responsible. I would say to the members opposite, I would hazard a guess, I would bet my life there is not one of them over there who is aware of this resolution passed by a municipality in this province of some 670,000 people.

"Moved by Councillor B. Franklin,

"Seconded by Councillor D. Kent,

"Resolved that the Minister of Energy for the province of Ontario be requested to conduct an inquiry to provide the residents of Ottawa-Carleton with the logical rationale explaining why retail gasoline prices in the region are the highest in the province of Ontario. A rationale explaining regional fluctuations should also be provided."

That was unanimously resolved September 11, 1991.

The Premier, a month before he was elected, would have supported that. He wanted one price across the province. He wanted to pass a law that would enable price gouging to stop, at the very least to conduct such an investigation. Believe it or not, the Minister of Energy has said: "This is not my area of responsibility. I'm washing my hands of it. It's the federal competition department that should be looking into it."

Obviously the Minister of Energy was not aware of the Premier's comments, the Premier's quotes, which I put on the record earlier, that said that there ought to be one-price system, that there should be no price gouging and that he was going to pass laws that would enable proper control of market conditions evenly and equally across the province.

The Premier hasn't done it. He hasn't done it in the budget. He had the opportunity in Bill 86. Bill 86 is ideally drafted in concert with any proposed increases, if only out of fairness, to authorize such an investigation. Out of fair-

ness, if only for transitional purposes and, to be quite blunt, if only for good, plain, sound political reasons, he ought to have said, "We're also going to introduce a bill so that we can look into gasoline prices." But then again, perhaps he thought the government would have to end up investigating itself, because it is a major contributor to gasoline prices.

1730

This is a much greater issue than merely Ottawa-Carleton. This resolution, which comes out of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, can be put on the Premier's desk with all those resolutions and representations that came from border municipalities, with the impact of Bill 86, the bill that increases gasoline taxes. The Ottawa-Carleton resolution has got to be put on the same table as the people from the north who have made representations with respect to northern gas prices and all those border communities that have made such strong representations.

This government had the opportunity to address those concerns in this budget. It could have amended Bill 86 by the budget of 1992. It could have created jobs by taking this gasoline tax off. A tax increase of \$40,000 costs one job. Capital spending or putting spending back into the economy of \$40,000 creates one job. We have a doubling up here. We have Bill 86, which takes hundreds of millions of dollars out of taxpayers' pockets, costing jobs. In addition to taking money out of circulation for the price of gas, it is absolutely multiplied by the impetus it gives to cross-border shopping.

There is no rational policy input on the whole issue of gasoline pricing in Ontario—not from the point of view of tax increases, not from the point of view of competition, not from the point of view of a one-price gas system to affect the whole region.

There is another very good article by Kristin Goff in the Ottawa Citizen. I was planning on reading it into the record also, because truly she has done a tremendous job of investigative reporting. I think I will refer to just one part of it. I won't test your patience, Mr Speaker, but I will read it to show you how significant the lobby and the concern is in the Ottawa-Carleton area with respect to gasoline prices. It's no less than the concern for gasoline prices that exists in border communities and the whole issue of cross-border shopping.

I want to refer to Kristin Goff's Ottawa Citizen article of April 2, 1991. She did an interview with David Simpson, who is the executive director of the Consumers' Association of Canada.

"Simpson, of the consumers' group, is convinced that Ottawa's gasoline market doesn't reflect competition and fair prices. He argues that the high dealer margins in Ottawa are yet another sign of the industry's preference to go for higher prices and lower volumes, rather than individual stations trying to increase their market share by lowering prices.

"Ottawa motorists are being overcharged 'because we don't have a marketplace in Ottawa and the majors are able to somehow control prices and artificially keep prices

beyond what they should normally and naturally do if you had a marketplace,' said Simpson."

That's the executive director of the Consumers' Association of Canada addressing this particular issue.

"Although analysts like Spencer Knipping of the Ontario Energy ministry say it is the independent retailers and retail chains who almost always start trends to lower prices, that wasn't the case in Ottawa this winter.

"Esso Petroleum, which had been the first to raise prices as they climbed following the start of the Persian Gulf crisis, finally took the lead on the way down as well on January 22, dropping prices by 2.5 cents a litre in Ottawa and three cents in Hull.

"That defied the prediction of Esso's top executive, Imperial Oil chairman Arden Haynes, who only the month before had said it was 'likely' independents would lead prices down in Ottawa when they started to fall."

Why is this government letting the media and the Consumers' Association of Canada do its job, when the Premier is clearly on record as saying that unequal gasoline prices and unfair competition in gasoline pricing in Ontario is unacceptable? Why must the media and the Consumers' Association of Canada and an opposition member have to bring it to the attention of this government, and not the cabinet member from Ottawa Centre, Ms Gigantes, who hasn't made a peep, who hasn't raised the issue, and I would say probably hasn't even raised it in cabinet?

If she has, let her come forward and say she has. If she has taken the letters from the mayor of Ottawa and the resolution from the regional chair of Ottawa-Carleton and brought them and put them on the Energy minister's desk and said, "Do something about it," let her stand in here and say that. But she can't, because she didn't, and she has no priority for the issues in Ottawa-Carleton.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): How many times did she stand up when you guys were in government and you raised taxes?

Mr Chiarelli: I do want to say that when the Liberals were in government we raised a few taxes, but we also dropped 28 taxes in our short term.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order.

Mr Chiarelli: I also want to refer to a letter to then minister Jenny Carter from one of the federal MPs—

Mr Bisson: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think a member who's been around this Legislature for a while should know you can't address another member by name but only by riding.

1740

Mr Chiarelli: I do want to apologize to the Chair for referring by member, but I got carried away. There were so many interjections from the other side, which as well is against the rules of this House, that it was a bit distracting and I just lost my train of thought for a minute.

As I mentioned, I wanted to refer to some correspondence here from various interest groups to various ministers. I'm taking a little time finding my notes here, because

I realize the significance of what I'm saying and I want it to sink in on the government side.

I have a letter here from someone the government would be very interested in hearing from. It's a letter to then minister Will Ferguson, but, my goodness, it's from a union. The NDP is going to listen now. This letter is actually from a union on this issue. Now all the ears are pricking up on the government side. This is the Ontario Taxi Union. It's dated August 27, 1991, and it's addressed to the Honourable Will Ferguson, Ontario Minister of Energy.

"As you probably know, retail gasoline prices in the Ottawa area are the highest in the province and some five and six cents higher than those in southern Ontario, and Ontario Ministry of Energy officials speculate that pump prices may rise by yet another cent per litre in the near future.

"These high prices are discouraging tourism, which is one of Ottawa main industries. Furthermore, high pump prices are impacting negatively on every Ottawa area consumer, as well as on local transportation businesses that purchase large quantities of gasoline. One such business is Blue Line Taxi Co Ltd, of whose union I am president.

"The Bureau of Competition Policy is currently investigating the possibility of price-fixing. Although the investigation has not concluded, you must fulfil your duties as Minister of Energy to take steps to deal with the gas price problem. After all, the price disparities between gasoline in Ottawa and that in southern Ontario will exist regardless of the investigation's outcome.

"Thank you for your assistance. I trust you will take immediate action to correct this discrimination against Ottawa area motorists.

"Yours truly,

"Mohamad Alsadi,

"President, Ontario Taxi Union, Local 1688."

They're not even listening to their own NDP union members who are concerned about the price increases caused by Bill 86. As I mentioned earlier, this government is not listening to anybody when it comes to gasoline pricing in this province.

The minister also received letters—and I won't go into details—from other unions in the area, including the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 279, Mr Randy Graham, who demands action for Ottawa from the provincial government. These people are all saying they don't want to see any more buck-passing.

I want to refer to a letter which was addressed to the then minister, Jenny Carter, from the federal member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre. It is interesting to note that the federal member of Parliament has been very concerned, as well as many other interested people and interested groups in the Ottawa-Carleton area, but nothing from the member for Ottawa Centre.

I want to refer to this letter, which says:

"Dear Ms Carter:

"As you know, disparities in regional gas prices have long been an albatross around the neck of many Ontario consumers. In the nation's capital and in my riding of Ottawa Centre—where we have no voice in this Legislature on the provincial level—"motorists are paying the highest

pump price of residents of any other Ontario city, second only to Timmins. And provincial taxes on unleaded gasoline are higher in Ontario than in any other province and are perhaps the highest in any region in all of North America.

"Consumer and Corporate Affairs is currently investigating the possibility of price-fixing. Pending the final outcome of this investigation, it is my view that the provincial government must address the other side of the problem, that of high pump prices. No move to resolve the disparities has yet been seen from the Ontario government."

I might say that this letter is dated July 16, 1991, and we still have seen no action on the part of this government, whether it's responding to the border communities on cross-border shopping or whether it responds to the issue of gasoline pricing in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

"The provincial government has recognized one area in which the gasoline disparities plaguing Ontario regions are clearly evident—northern Ontario. The Ministry of Energy documents the disparity between northern and southern Ontario in its report, North-South Gasoline Pricing Study."

I want to interject here in my quote and I want to ask the government most directly: In light of the evidence that is presented to the Minister of Energy over a very extended period of time, why does this government establish for the north the North-South Gasoline Pricing Study but totally ignore the horrendous situation that exists in Ottawa-Carleton where the price per litre is something like 10 cents above many of the other parts of the province?

There is no answer. There is no defence to the total inaction. It is absolutely appalling that some 12 months after introducing Bill 86 from the 1991 budget, they are in here now on third reading reinforcing this disaster of a bill which costs jobs everywhere and, as I said, which impacts very negatively on the many senior citizens who live in my riding of Ottawa West.

I want to say, by introduction to the next part of the letter from the federal member for Ottawa Centre, that the provincial Minister of Energy, the second one, Mr Ferguson, will send a letter addressing these particular issues. I would encourage you, Mr Speaker, to try to remember the points that are being made in this letter and then relate them perhaps to the non-answer of Mr Ferguson, the Minister of Energy at that time; in fact, I would say quite a misleading answer, innocently I am sure.

"The ministry blames three conditions for the price differences: a smaller market size in the north that limits competition between retailers, increased distribution costs from southern refiners to the north, and a smaller average volume of gas sold per service station in the north that raises retail costs.

"While outrageous gas prices in the northern region have been well recognized by the provincial government in documents like this report, no similar study has been conducted in the Ottawa-Carleton area—even though the same high gas prices have been sparked by the same conditions as those that plague northern Ontario. These similarities are identified by comparing the North-South

Gasoline Pricing Study and a letter sent from Catriona King, an adviser of the energy policy and planning division of the Ministry of Energy, to Dr Louis Shallal, the chief systems planning engineer of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, on August 30, 1987."

This is very important information which I'm sure this government has totally ignored to date and which I believe it's important it become part of the record of this Legislature.

In this letter, Ms King blames the gas price disparities between Ottawa, the heart of eastern Ontario, and Toronto, the heart of southern Ontario, on several conditions that are mirrored in the Ministry of Energy report. Specifically, Ms King describes Ottawa as being about a quarter of the size of Metro Toronto in both population and gasoline volume, as well as having fewer retail gas outlets.

If I can digress here again, what we're saying here as well is that the Ministry of Energy is trying to use market discrepancies to explain—discrepancies in the price of gasoline when the Premier, a couple of weeks before his election, and I read them into the record before, said that when he was elected he would support a one-price system across the province. Yet he is letting his ministry officials now support price discrepancies across the province, and very significant ones.

If I can go back to the federal member's letter to the minister:

"Furthermore, Ms King points out Ottawa does not share Toronto's easy access to cheaper-priced gas imports from the United States. Like cities in northern Ontario, Ottawa must instead rely on lengthy transportation of fuel.

"Based on the parallel between the gas price problem evident in eastern Ontario—which encompasses my Ottawa Centre riding—and those the government recognizes in northern Ontario, the government must treat eastern and northern Ontario the same when it addresses gas price irregularities.

"In particular, the provincial government must consider restoring the balance in eastern Ontario with the same gas subsidies it is considering in northern Ontario," it says in this letter, but in fact it's been given to northern Ontario. "As you know, your government has eliminated vehicle licence fees for northern residents to compensate for high gas prices. The same concession should be made to the suffering motorists in the Ottawa region, or better yet, the provincial government should consider removing the additional 1.7-cents-a-litre tax it levied on gas in its latest budget."

1750

They're talking specifically about Bill 86 and how Bill 86 could have been amended to address Ottawa-Carleton's gasoline price concerns. But again they are not listening. They were not listening; they knew it all. They have done nothing, and they continue to do nothing.

If I can continue with the letter, "Aside from its contemplation of regional gas subsidies, the provincial government must take this opportunity to undertake a study of gas prices across Ontario, focusing on beleaguered regions such as eastern Ontario."

In conclusion, the federal member says: "I believe your government is presently looking at the ideas of gas cooperatives and regulation of gas prices. However, while co-ops have proved successful in Thompson, Manitoba, they cannot be relied upon to solve our gas price problems" in Ottawa-Carleton. "As the failure to establish cooperatives in other areas of Manitoba shows, cooperatives alone are not infallible and cannot be used in place of government action to repair gas price irregularities and reinstate consumer confidence."

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. If you want to talk to each other, I would suggest that you perhaps could go in one of the rooms next to the House and have your conversations there.

Mr Chiarelli: The federal member, in his letter to the Ontario Minister of Energy, indicated:

"Similarly, deregulation is not the answer, as the Nova Scotia experience tells us. If you recall, Nova Scotia deregulated gas prices on July 1, realizing that regulations reduce competitiveness and retailers take advantage of them by charging the maximum gas price allowed.

"The government of Ontario must take seriously its responsibility to correct the consumer injustice caused by wide variances in gas prices. On behalf of residents of the Ottawa area, including my constituents, who have clearly indicated that they are tired of paying significantly more than their southern neighbours for gas, I urge your government to grasp its responsibility with both hands and take steps to correct the gas price irregularities.

"Thank you for your assistance. I eagerly await your reply and hope to hear news of your government's action on this matter soon.

"Sincerely," and it's signed by the federal member for Ottawa Centre.

Of course a copy of that was sent to Premier Bob Rae.

As I mentioned earlier, the then new Minister of Energy responded to that letter actually quite briefly. It was a well organized, well-thought-out letter on the whole question of gas pricing not only in Ottawa-Carleton but across the province. Quite frankly, the recommendation that federal member made for the study would have been of great assistance to the border communities who are very concerned about Bill 86, the increase in gas prices, and who are very concerned by the fact that this government did not introduce measures in the budget last week.

Back on August 19, 1991, the minister said in response to that previous letter: "Thank you for your recent letter addressed to my predecessor, Jenny Carter. As the recently appointed Minister of Energy, I am happy to respond." I don't know why he was happy, because he didn't say anything. I guess he was a new minister in the job and he was enjoying his dictaphone or something. He was happy to respond, but he didn't say anything.

"The question of price-fixing is currently being investigated by the federal Bureau of Competition Policy"—again, point the finger at the feds, which is the standard approach of this government—"to determine if anti-competitive behaviour is occurring in Ottawa. If you have any

information pertaining to price-fixing in Ottawa I would ask you to forward it to the Bureau of Competition Policy."

In other words, "Thank you very much, but we're not interested in gas prices around here; go and see the feds." That's part of the answer here.

"In the absence of price-fixing, price differences occur as a result of differing market conditions. I believe that such differences are best addressed by improving the level of competition."

I want to interject here just for a moment. We have on August 19, 1991, less than 11 months after the election and about 13 months after the Premier, in the election campaign, made certain promises—I want to go back to those promises, because I think it makes a very good juxtaposition to what the minister is saying here on August 19.

The Minister of Energy is saying, "I believe that such differences are best addressed by improving the level of competition." Here's what the Premier said on August 17; it's two days away from being exactly a year. The Premier, then Leader of the Opposition, to the Thunder Bay Times: "He restated a campaign promise made last week that the NDP government would empower what he called the provincial energy commission to bring in a one-price system for gasoline in the province. 'I really think consumers are being ripped off by gasoline companies.'"

My goodness, that doesn't sound like the Minister of Energy's response exactly one year later. Not only did the Premier promise a one-price gas system for Ontario on August 13, 1990; he told a radio audience that he "would ensure the province had the legal power to prevent gas price gouging."

Then, even after the election, several days after the election, the Premier told the Toronto Star that he "vows to bar price gouging by oil companies."

I want to go back to the Minister of Energy's response of August 19, 1991:

"In the absence of price-fixing, price differences occur as a result of differing market conditions. I believe that such differences are best addressed by improving the level of competition. Within Ontario, the only tax which contributes to regional tax differences"—you're not going to believe it—"is the federal GST." Finger-pointing again at the federal government. Can you believe it, Mr Speaker? The minister goes on: "I do not believe, therefore, that changing the tax system is the best way to compensate for a lack of competition. Nevertheless, I will forward your request for a reduction in taxes on gasoline sold in Ontario and the removal of the vehicle registration fee in eastern Ontario to the Treasurer."

We've seen what the Treasurer has done: absolutely, totally nothing.

The minister's letter goes on: "My ministry is closely watching the price of gasoline in Ottawa and across the province and continues to monitor the situation on a weekly basis. I agree with you that the Nova Scotia experience clearly indicates that regulation of the marketplace only leads to higher prices at the pump for consumers.

"I sympathize with your constituents who feel they are paying too much for gasoline. Increased competition creates greater opportunities for the consumer to obtain the lowest

possible price for gasoline. It is our intention to investigate ways to ensure that a highly competitive gasoline retail market exists in Ontario.

"Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the government's attention."

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. It being six of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

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Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre délégué à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathyssen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward-Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Finances et affaires économiques**

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Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

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Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
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Règlements et projets de loi privés**

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Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
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W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock,
Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

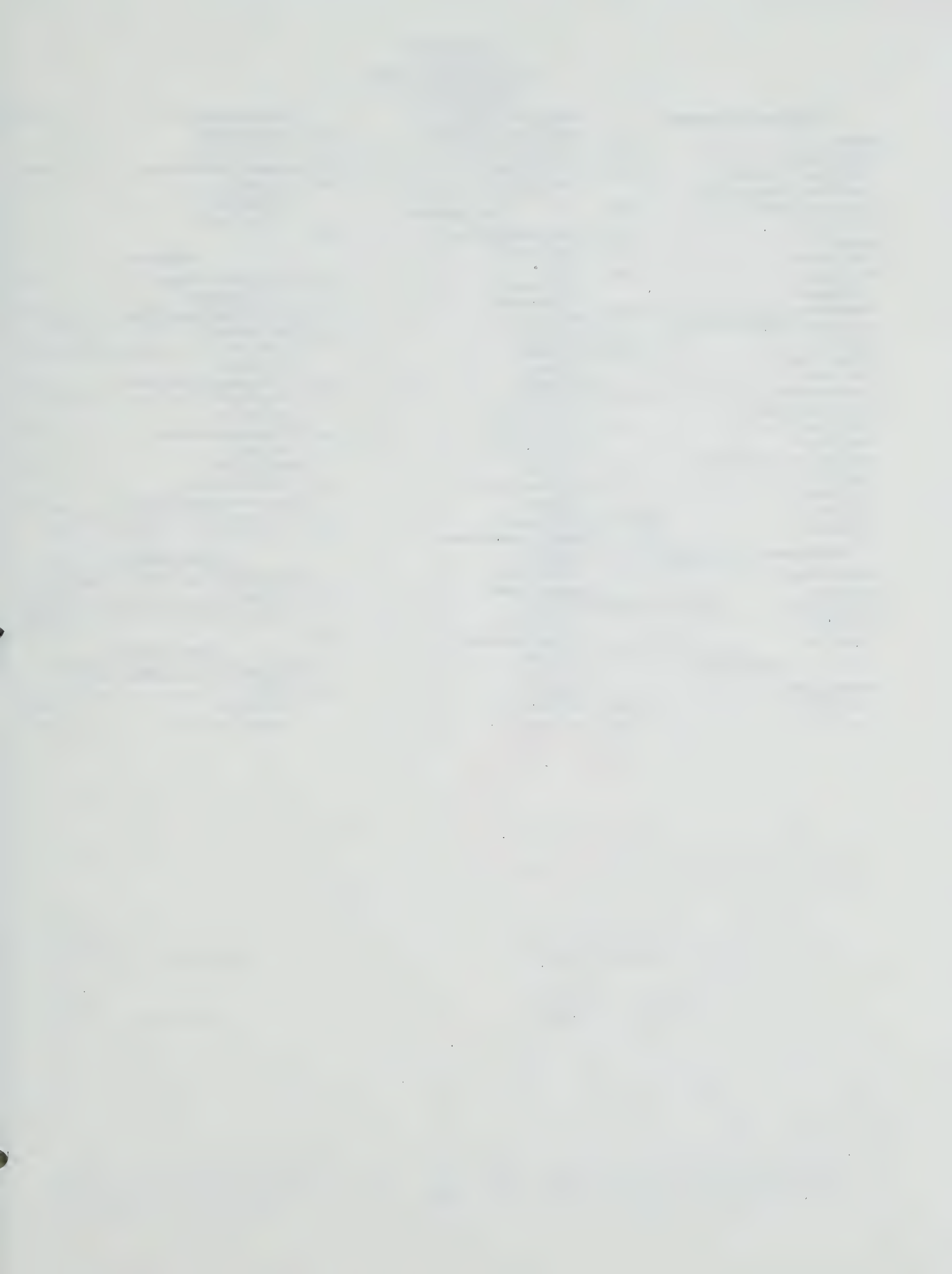
Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

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Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini,
Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth



CONTENTS

Tuesday 5 May 1992

Members' statements

Budget	529
Mr Cordiano	
Collingwood Museum	529
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	
Labour legislation	529
Mr Wood	
Budget	529
Mr Kwinter	
Moose tags	530
Mr McLean	
Toronto riot	530
Mr Wilson (Kingston and The Islands)	
Kristen French	530
Mr Bradley	
Education Week	530
Mrs Cunningham	
Enviro Fuel	531
Mr Johnson	
Advocacy and guardianship legislation	531
Mr Sterling	
Mr Elston	
Mr Cooke	

Statements by the ministry

Sexual assault	532
Mrs Boyd	
Toronto riot	533
Mr Pilkey	
Ms Ziemba	

Responses

Sexual assault	
Ms Poole	534
Mrs Witmer	536

Toronto riot

Mrs McLeod	535
Mr Curling	535
Mr Runciman	535
Mr Cousens	535

Oral questions

Youth unemployment

Mrs McLeod	
Mr Rae	

Skills training

Mrs McLeod	
Mr Laughren	

Toronto riot

Mr Harris	
Mr Rae	

Income tax

Mr Harris	
Mr Laughren	

Skills training

Mr Ramsay	
Mr Allen	

Retail store hours

Mr Harris	
Mr Laughren	

Ontario's credit rating

Mr Mills	
Mr Laughren	

Unemployment

Mr Offer	
Mr Laughren	

Revenue from gaming

Mr Tilson	
Mr Pilkey	

Budget

Mr Ward	
Mr Laughren	

Retail store hours

Mr Mahoney	
Mr Laughren	
Ontario's credit rating	544
Mr Sterling	
Mr Laughren	
Mr Stockwell	

Petitions

Municipal boundaries

Mr Grandmaitre	
----------------	--

French-language services

Mr Murdoch	
------------	--

Hydro project

Mr Miclash	
------------	--

French-language services

Mr Jackson	
Mr Cousens	

Municipal boundaries

Mr Eddy	
---------	--

Nursing homes

Mrs MacKinnon	
---------------	--

French-language services

Mr Jordan	
-----------	--

Budget debate

Resuming the adjourned debate ..

Mr Harris	546
Adjourned	552

Third readings

Gasoline Tax Amendment Act, 1992,

Bill 86	552
Mr Chiarelli	552
Deemed adjourned	563



No. 18

Nº 18

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 6 May 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 6 mai 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 6 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SPENDING

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): The budgetary estimates of the Attorney General show that overall spending has been increased by \$122 million, a whopping increase of 19.5%, but the document raises many questions.

First, the legal aid plan projects a 25% increase in legal aid requirements for 1992-93, but legal aid funding in the minister's estimates increased by 50%, or \$90 million. Even though the Attorney General can thus increase legal aid funding beyond projected needs, he seeks to punish the Law Society of Upper Canada in recessionary times. Last week's leaked cabinet document says cabinet "did not approve further declines in revenue from the Law Foundation of Ontario," whereby lawyers help fund legal aid, and "directed the Attorney General to seek alternative revenues or expenditure reductions to manage any further declines in law foundation revenues."

Second, the underfunded family support plan, with a 1991-92 allocation of \$25 million, spent only \$18 million. This government was too incompetent to get \$7 million of allocated and needed funds into the support and custody orders enforcement system. The SCOE budget has in fact been cut this year.

The estimates also raised many other questions about the minister's competence which we will deal with at another time.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): This week is National Mental Health Week in the province of Ontario. The theme for the week has been an emphasis upon housing as a critical community need and a cornerstone of independent community living.

Throughout the week the Canadian Mental Health Association has attempted, and will continue to attempt, to elevate the public's awareness of mental health issues and erode the stigma which surrounds mental illness.

I would like to take this opportunity both to commend the Minister of Housing for attending the Mental Health Week kickoff on Monday and to urge the government to embrace the theme for the week, which is "Accommodate Mental Health."

The needs of Ontario's mental health community are substantial, and they are not being met. Seventy-five thousand Ontarians have a serious mental illness and 1.5 million Ontarians seek mental health care each year. One hundred and forty people with psychiatric problems are discharged every day from hospitals into the communities without adequate community support in place. Thirty to forty per cent of homeless people have a serious mental health problem. In most areas of Ontario there are serious

gaps in services and lengthy waiting lists for mental health and addiction services.

National Mental Health Week provides the NDP government with a great opportunity to pay more than lipservice to the need for community-based mental health services. Now is the time for this government to live up to its promises and start accommodating mental health.

HOWARD-HARWICH-MORAVIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): Today I'd like to tell the House about Howard-Harwich-Moravian Public School, whose 25th anniversary ceremonies I attended this past weekend.

I participate in a lot of events celebrating various themes, but the fascinating origin of and unique harmony within this school are very special. I would like to share a little of its history with the members of the House.

Howard-Harwich-Moravian opened its doors in September 1967. This represented amalgamation of 16 one-room school houses from Howard and Harwich townships and the Moravian of the Thames Band.

From the school's origin there has existed a unique bond between natives and non-natives. This is clearly illustrated and perpetuated by the native studies class taught to all the 340 students of the school. Howard-Harwich-Moravian Public School was the first school in the south-west to offer this program.

The groups of grade 5 and 6 students who sang at the ceremonies under the direction of Mrs Cofell exemplified profoundly the harmonious spirit in which the school was founded. One more interesting highlight of the afternoon was the acknowledgement of four graduates of the school. Mrs Mitton was a first-year graduate of the school and her son Peter will graduate this year, 25 years later.

I was then surprised and pleased to learn that a former legislative page for the House, Leah Spicer, and her mother were the other graduating team. Leah served as a page in the House last fall. She will graduate this year, 25 years after her mother, Mrs Spicer, did the same the first year the school was opened.

BUDGET

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I rise today to continue bringing to this Legislature responses to the budget from the people of Ontario. We continue to hear from all areas of the province concerns that NDP mismanagement is ruining the economy.

From Cambridge we have a business response saying, "All business would be happy to trade the business tax decreases for the proposed labour legislation reforms."

From Dorchester we hear that the budget has "no incentives to start and manage business, to increase income, create jobs. This will lead to very serious future repercussions for our young people."

The people in my riding are very concerned with the direction this government is taking with this budget. We

must work towards creating an economic environment that is conducive to business. However, this goal will not be realized with this latest NDP budget. The people of Brant-Haldimand and from across the province hope that this government will re-examine its agenda so Ontario can prosper once again.

1340

PLANNING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Last week, John Sewell, chairman of the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario, met with members of my caucus to discuss the findings his group has made so far while travelling the province to discuss the current planning process in the province.

I agree with both Mr Sewell and the Minister of Municipal Affairs that reform in this area is needed. However, as they both know, I do not agree that their way is the better way, as I feel they have little knowledge of and do not understand the hundreds of thousands of people who live outside the greater Toronto area.

Without this understanding, I still believe the government is wasting a great deal of time and a great deal of money. I do, though, agree with Mr Sewell that a non-partisan all-party committee would be an ideal start, and I have written to Mr Sewell to express my support in this matter. I have also made some suggestions as to how this could be done, and I hope he gives them consideration.

Planning is the most important issue in Ontario today. People see decisions being made which are not uniform, which make no sense and which seem very undemocratic. They do not understand why two identical severance applications or development permits are treated differently. They only know that they do not understand the rules.

My hope is that somehow, working together, we can begin to deal fairly with the issue across the entire province and to create a level playing field so that no one is more equal than anyone else.

MIDWIFERY

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): On May 3, Ontario women and their families celebrated the first anniversary of International Midwives Day, with special reason. Bill 56, the Midwifery Act, which was passed last fall, establishes midwifery as a distinct profession. Midwives support women in their choice around childbirth, recognizing that birth is often a normal, healthy event. We can all celebrate that this highly personalized, continuous care provided by midwives will be accessible to more women across the province as part of our health care system.

My wife, Karen, and I have a special place in our hearts for midwives. They have provided truly valuable support during pregnancy, birth and after our son was born.

We would like to thank the interim regulatory council on midwifery for its work in preparing the implementation of midwifery. Consumers, as represented by the Midwifery Task Force of Ontario, have expressed support for the recommendations of the curriculum designed for midwifery education. We are proud of the Ontario government's commitment to bring midwifery into our health care system.

EASTERN ONTARIO

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): I'd like to address my comments to the Treasurer, if I may. It pertains to the budget as it relates to eastern Ontario. A couple of weeks ago I asked the Treasurer about reinstating the cabinet committee for eastern Ontario. He turned to the member for Ottawa Centre, who is the Minister of Housing, and mentioned, "Yes, we'll have her have a look at this cabinet committee."

I think, Mr Treasurer, you failed to remember that you also have two other cabinet ministers in eastern Ontario: the member for Hastings-Peterborough, the Minister of Agriculture and Food; and the member for Frontenac-Aldington, who is the Minister of Government Services. So you have a total of three cabinet ministers there.

There are things that need to be done in eastern Ontario. We have an unemployment rate in the Quinte and surrounding area which ranges from 11.8% to 14.2%. We have more than 14,000 people who are collecting unemployment and welfare benefits in the cities of Belleville and Trenton alone.

When we formed this eastern Ontario cabinet committee, we brought in many other powerful ministers to try and do something for eastern Ontario, and I think we did that. Maybe the minister there should be doing something to spearhead some action to get some jobs and get things going in eastern Ontario.

We welcome some of the job creation initiatives you have given us, but we are afraid they are going to be very short-term and we look for some action from you and some of the other ministers of your government to create some jobs in eastern Ontario.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): In her statement announcing that May is Sexual Assault Prevention Month, the minister responsible for women's issues indicated that 50% of sexual assaults happen to girls 17 years old and younger. While I very much support the focus of this year's campaign to change the attitudes which lead to sexual assaults, I am deeply concerned about this government's failure to provide programs and access to mental health services for young women who have been victims of sexual abuse.

I would like to focus on the case of a young woman in my community who has been receiving treatment in the US for three weeks for the post-traumatic stress she has suffered as the result of sexual abuse. Despite the fact that there is no treatment available in Ontario for at least six months, this young woman's family has now been told that OHIP will no longer pay for her treatment, and she will be forced to return to Ontario this weekend.

This family wrote to the Minister of Health on May 4. They are pleading with her to show compassion and to ask that OHIP continue to approve the treatment their daughter so desperately requires. Indeed in her letter her mother says, "Should she be forced to stay at home while playing a waiting game, the possibility of her suicide attempts succeeding increases by the hour."

I am sending the minister another copy of this desperate plea for help. I urge her to take immediate action to help this young woman.

JACK DYKEMAN

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): Today I would like to pay tribute to volunteers who are the strength and success of communities across this province. In particular I would like to commend a volunteer in my riding of Lambton who has served as a volunteer fireman in the town of Petrolia for 35 years and is now retiring.

Jack Dykeman joined the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department in 1956, and through his dedication became known to always be the first ready and waiting at the fire station when the bell sounded.

He has served in most positions in the department, including chief for three years. Mr Dykeman recalls the early days of the bell on Victoria Hall that would ring to alert firefighters and the telephone operators calling each individual firefighter in case the bell wasn't heard.

Mr Dykeman is credited with assisting in the development of the modern firefighting services the town of Petrolia now enjoys and says the addition of such equipment as the jaws of life and modern fire trucks will serve the community well and help to ensure the safety of the town's residents.

I feel this dedication by Mr Dykeman as a volunteer depicts what serving your community is all about. Even though Mr Dykeman is retiring, he says he will always answer the bell if the department is short-handed. This is truly volunteerism.

VISITOR

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I don't know if it's under rule 31(f), but perhaps you could give me some guidance as to under which rule I would draw to the attention of the House and to you the presence of the mayor of the city of Brampton, His Worship Mayor Peter Robertson, whom I welcome here today.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member does not have a point of order, but indeed the visitor is most welcome.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): Today more than one million people in this province rely on social assistance, at a cost projected to reach over \$6 billion during this fiscal year. These figures indicate a system so overburdened that it is not meeting one of its primary objectives: to help people leave the system and attain self-sufficiency.

The social assistance system in Ontario should be a system of last resort, the safety net that ensures that those people who are truly in need and who have no other source of income can get assistance.

Our first priority will be to provide support and encouragement to recipients to help them move towards greater independence and self-reliance. As we help people

move from social assistance into the workforce, we all benefit from reduced costs to the system and from the full participation of former recipients within our communities.

In the budget announcement last week the Treasurer announced the new Jobs Ontario training fund, which will create thousands of new jobs and training opportunities for social assistance recipients and for people who are no longer eligible for unemployment insurance. We look forward to hearing further details about this exciting new program from my colleague Richard Allen, the Minister of Skills Development.

Today I am announcing a series of measures designed to reduce reliance on social assistance by helping more people move into the workforce, by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the social assistance system and by ensuring that where there are alternative sources of income, such as unemployment insurance, Canada pension and child support, those who are eligible actually receive their income from those sources.

These measures and others will slow the growth in the number of people who need social assistance in Ontario and will realize savings of more than \$300 million over the next year. Savings to the system will be significant. I must stress, however, that this government will continue to provide assistance to all those whose basic needs are not being met through other means.

1350

Later this spring, the principal report of the Advisory Group on New Social Assistance Legislation will be released, following which we will act decisively to reform the social assistance system, using the advice we receive from the extensive consultation and consideration of the advisory group.

Let me outline some of the new measures we will put into place.

To help more people move off social assistance and into the workforce, we will hire 450 additional provincial social assistance field staff at a cost of about \$18 million. At present, each provincial case worker is responsible for providing services to more than 400 people and their families. That means about half a day per year per client. That is little time to do much more than process applications and keep up with the changes to circumstances.

The additional staff will allow us to improve the service we provide to social assistance recipients and applicants, helping more of them to find alternative sources of income. We'll be strategically placing this new staff in areas of the province where the growth in the numbers of people receiving family benefits has been the highest. By targeting our staffing more effectively, we expect to offer better service to our clients and to achieve greater efficiency in the system.

This new staffing is an investment which will result in significant returns in both human and financial terms and which is essential to implement the measures we are announcing today. Many of the new social assistance staff will be civil servants who will be displaced from their jobs by the current actions of this government.

Consistent with the spirit of the Transitions report, we will introduce assessment of all social assistance applicants

in terms of employability and, where appropriate, make direct referrals to other supports and services. We are hurting social assistance applicants when we fail to look at their potential. The service we provide should be more than financial; it should include support in fulfilling that potential.

With the additional staff, we will change the way we deal with applicants coming into our offices for assistance. Instead of focusing solely on an applicant's financial situation, we're going to work with applicants and clients to help them discover their training needs and employment potential. Where appropriate, people will be assisted with information about other programs and services and referred to employment and training opportunities. In this way, we will help people make the transition to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. Of course, eligible applicants will continue to receive benefits until new sources of income such as wages or training allowances are available.

In response to the concerns expressed by our municipal partners and by social assistance recipients themselves, we will introduce changes to the eligibility requirements for the supports to employment program. STEP was introduced to provide an incentive to people on social assistance to enter the workforce. By allowing certain exemptions to people who secure employment, the program allows participants to retain a larger portion of their social assistance allowance in addition to their income from employment.

This program has been very successful and will continue to provide opportunities to the clients of the social assistance system. However, over the last two years we have seen that some people with moderate incomes and significant attachment to the workforce are supplementing their incomes through the program. The changes I'm announcing today will ensure that fewer employed people with moderate incomes will qualify for social assistance benefits.

For those applicants with earnings who do qualify for social assistance, reduced STEP benefits will apply for the first three months. Child care, disability benefits and statutory deductions will continue to apply. After three months, these participants will be entitled to the full benefits that people who enter STEP from within the system currently enjoy.

I want to stress that these changes will have no impact on people who are already participating in STEP or who are already on social assistance. For these people, the program will continue to operate as before and will continue to provide a positive incentive to enter the workforce.

We will also increase our efforts to make social assistance recipients aware of STEP. We take very seriously the criticisms of consumers who have identified a lack of consistent and clear information about how STEP works and how they can become eligible. We continue to believe in the value of this program to help people ease into the workforce and off social assistance.

We will introduce these modifications to STEP on August 1. That will give us ample opportunity to train our employees in our new way of doing business.

Turning to other measures, we will streamline some of our activities through the establishment of links with other provincial and federal programs. In particular, we will work to find ways of identifying other potential income sources for applicants and clients. For example, we know there are many people receiving social assistance in Ontario who qualify for other income support, such as unemployment insurance, Canada pension or child support. With the addition of staff, we will be able to work to determine who is eligible for support from other sources and to secure that support.

Some of the new staff will focus on parental support work. There are many single parents applying for social assistance who should be receiving child support from their spouses. Parental support workers help these single parents, usually women, get the support to which they are entitled by ensuring that court orders are made and carried out. Our parental support workers will work in partnership with the Attorney General's family support plan to ensure that parents retain primary responsibility for the support of their children.

Fraud exists in any system, and social assistance is no exception. However, popular perceptions of fraud are far in excess of the reality. Studies of the system have found that the rate of fraud in the social assistance system is actually less than 5%. We also know, however, that we cannot afford to have social assistance dollars lost to those few who cheat the system. Social assistance recipients are very clear that they are as anxious as all taxpayers are to ensure the integrity of the system and to see that available support goes to those in need.

We will move to improve efficiency and reduce costs by working to reduce fraud and by making sure that those who are on the system are those who truly need it. With our additional staff, we will be able to do a better job of identifying and reducing fraud.

Overpayments to recipients may occur because of errors by overburdened workers, delays in processing information about changed circumstances and slow reporting by clients. We will make every effort to streamline the system to minimize overpayments and will also increase our efforts to recover overpayments paid to clients who have left the social assistance system.

To further increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the system, we are going to study the usefulness of having family benefits recipients report earnings more often than the current practice of every four to six months. We expect one of the possible benefits of this would be the prevention of overpayment, as recipients' circumstances change frequently. Increased reporting requirements, however, will be done in a manner which is both easy and clearly understood by our clients.

We will also be expanding our program of depositing social assistance benefits directly into the bank accounts of recipients who wish it. This too will improve our efficiency and effectiveness and will prevent some of the lost or stolen cheques which continue to cause distress to our clients and stress on our delivery system. We will be working with the financial institutions to ensure that our clients

are treated with the respect and dignity due to all customers.

We will implement these measures over the next few months. Our improvements in effective and efficient delivery, coupled with our strong efforts to help recipients move into the workforce, will save resources. These savings represent a significant portion of the more than \$300 million in social assistance savings mentioned by the Treasurer in the budget.

We are confident that these measures will reduce costs while protecting the integrity of the social assistance system and the government's commitment to reform. We will continue to ensure that social assistance is available to all those who are truly in need.

1400

RESPONSES

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I rise to respond to the statement by the minister. I want first of all to note that when I first received this statement, the following line appeared on page 3: "We are the first government committed to managing the social assistance system." I must admit that I took great exception to that.

I accept that the Treasurer came over and said to me that the line was not supposed to have been in there. The minister did not read it, but I am utterly appalled that the line would have managed to get as far as it did in this statement when we consider the contribution that was made by the former member for Kitchener-Wilmot, John Sweeney. Surely if there was an individual in this Legislature who took seriously the job of reforming social assistance, of bringing forward changes to that whole program and of managing it effectively and with a sense of caring and compassion, it was John Sweeney. I don't exclude any of those ministers since he was in and since our government was in, but he was someone who really cared very deeply about reforming the system. I think it is appropriate to give him his due, because indeed a number of the things that flow from this statement were things that he began. I say again that I accept the Treasurer's remarks, but I want to make that comment.

Fundamentally, what we see here in a number of the issues—the STEP program, the supports to employment program, and the pilot projects that had started in terms of the direct deposit—build off the plan that George Thomson brought forward in the Transitions report and which John Sweeney then brought to this Legislature. But I think what we have to look at here is how this will in fact be managed, because what we are being asked to believe is that by the expenditure of \$18 million and by the hiring of 450 additional people, we are going to save some \$300 million. We want to be able to believe that, but one of the grave difficulties is that this government itself—I'm going to name two programs.

The minister sets out in her statement that she is going to be bringing forward the concept of, in effect, opportunity planning. It was in the Transitions report. The previous minister said she was going to be setting up five pilot

projects to work with those on social assistance to get them off and to provide them with the skills and job directions they needed. Almost a year later we see nothing of those pilot projects. Shortly after this government took office, it also stated that it was going to spend \$54 million with municipalities on job creation for those on social assistance. We have seen no impact of that as yet.

Those are two fundamental and critical issues where, if we had seen some action, we could see that some of what is mentioned here may in fact see the light of day. But we're being asked to believe that we're going to save \$300 million, when what we have seen to date is that this government has not been able in any way, shape or form to manage effectively the social assistance case load, program or support services for those people.

What, then, do we do with all the things that are mentioned here, when we barely have received the budget that came down last Thursday from the Treasurer? No matter what marvellous plans you have for social assistance—and I say that as a former minister—unless the jobs are out there, unless those jobs have been created or are created, this is as nothing.

When we look at that budget and when we recognize that through the income tax increases that were announced by the Treasurer we're going to lose some 25,000 jobs, and when we see no real impetus for the economy, then what is it that this program is going to accomplish, when in effect there are no jobs for those people to go to? The huge piece that is missing from any reform of social assistance is, what is this government's priority in terms of job creation? That we did not see in the budget; that we have not seen in the months this government has been in office, and without clear signs of economic recovery, of economic growth, of real job creation, we are not going to be able to help those who are on social assistance. We have to move on both fronts. Mr Treasurer, we need jobs if we're going to make this work.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I listened very carefully to the critic, my colleague the member for York North, make reference to the line that wasn't used in the minister's statement. I just want to assure him that in fact that was a typing error and that it really was, "We are the first government committed to mismanaging the social assistance system." I just wanted him to get some comfort in knowing that it really was a typo, not an oversight.

It's quite interesting that we now have the first statement from this minister regarding social assistance since the budget, and it represents a major conversion on her own road to Damascus, now having responsibility for the million people in this province who are on social assistance.

We find it interesting that we criticize this government for not listening, but in fact there is very clear evidence that in part it has listened to several people. Certainly they listened to the comments of our party, and I dare say other political parties in this province, but our party in its New Directions document indicated last fall that wage subsidies to employers hiring social assistance recipients should be a part of the plan. I noticed when we made that statement, when our leader, Mr Harris, made that statement, the minister

herself was quoted in the London area in one press interview as saying, "Having to look for work sort of defeats the purpose of getting on welfare." I thought that was a rather interesting and intriguing comment for the minister to make publicly.

But that was then and this is now, and I commend the minister for her 180-degree turn on the issue of ensuring that social assistance recipients are strengthened in their pursuit of long-term employment. What we're encouraged about now is that all three political parties in this House are starting to realize what the public has been telling them, that chronic unemployment and chronic welfare is no future for our province and our people and that programs such as STEP require strengthening and immediate attention from all members of the House.

I am very intrigued by several points the minister made during her press conference earlier this afternoon. She said she thinks she'll save some \$300 million as an outcome of this specific program. That is really highly questionable, given some of the facts that have been shared with members of this House, most notably the document which was so controversial last week, the treasury board minutes. When one examines those minutes, one realizes that a whole series of initiatives for social assistance recipients have been abandoned by this government. I'll briefly make note of them.

The board noted that \$8 million was placed on hold-back pending review of options to offset a revenue shortfall related to first nations Back on Track initiatives. It goes on to say that \$1,036,000 related to native child care on reserves is cancelled. It talks about her cabinet approving a decrease of \$5.8 million related to SARC initiatives that have not yet been implemented. It goes on. They did not approve an increase of \$200,000 for salaries and wages for staff to support the development of new social assistance legislation. It goes on and on: cuts to the drug benefit plan and another \$138 million in social assistance cuts.

The truth is that within these documents is clear evidence that these are not savings to taxpayers as a function of this new program but rather reflect a tradeoff, and it cuts directly at social service recipients. Frankly, that is why the minister suddenly puts across in her message that social assistance recipients at moderate income levels shouldn't fare as well under STEP as low-income. She knows the kinds of cuts her government is about to make.

I am intrigued that the minister thinks that by finding moneys in other programs, most of which are paid for by the same taxpayer, she's going to be able to offset various programs and her total costs. Her total costs are still going to be there, simply shifting recipients from one program to another.

The exception, of course, is child support, and I can't let that comment go by. It has been raised by our Attorney General's critic because your government is very badly behind in terms of having the infrastructure in place in order to have those compliance orders. I do not doubt for a moment, Minister, that you're committed to this, but it's very clear that your Attorney General isn't, and I doubt you have the infrastructure in place. I'm delighted at the

change in direction; I'm just concerned at the way the government's going about doing it.

1410

ORAL QUESTIONS

BUDGET

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Treasurer. Last Thursday, the Treasurer stood in this House and told the people of Ontario that his budget deficit for 1992-93 would be \$9.9 billion. We believe that since then our efforts have shown that already astronomical figure to be nothing short of a rather desperate attempt to salvage the province's already discredited credit rating.

We suspect that the reason Standard and Poor's have once again lowered this province's credit rating is that they, like the Liberal opposition, have some very serious concerns about the Treasurer's deficit numbers. When we add up the numbers, we believe the deficit is probably more in the order of \$12.8 billion. I would ask the Treasurer if he would join us in requesting the Provincial Auditor to provide an independent evaluation so that all of us understand the real financial picture of this province.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Interjections.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): We have a fiercely independent Provincial Auditor in this province. Any government that tried to pull the wool over his eyes, so to speak, would be brought up short very quickly, so I don't think we need to direct or ask the Provincial Auditor to do anything in that regard. I can assure the leader of the official opposition that we would be foolish indeed to pretend that our deficit is lower than it really is, because we'd simply have to live with that in-year and we'd have to make very serious reallocations in-year, which are very painful and very difficult to do on the expenditure side. So I want to assure the leader of the official opposition that what you see in the budget is what you're going to get.

Mrs McLeod: We're well aware that the Treasurer, in the attempt to manage what he's called his cash flow problems, has certainly deferred to next year some of the expenses one might reasonably have expected to find in this year's budget, but I do wonder, if the Treasurer is confident that the numbers in his budget add up to his projected deficit, why he would not want to request the auditor to look at these figures now. The Treasurer may want to downplay all this, and I understand that, but last May 16 he told the House that a rating change is estimated to add \$2.5 million for every \$1 billion borrowed in the public bond markets.

It's quite clear that the Treasurer is indeed concerned about the cost of borrowing to cover the debt. I'd just like to know if the Treasurer has been so concerned about the debt and the cost of borrowing that he's actually tried to hide the true size of his deficit. I would ask when he will

add up all the numbers and acknowledge the real financial liability of the province.

Hon Mr Laughren: The numbers that are in the budget are real numbers. I'm sure there are members on your side—you were in government—who would support me in the assertion that in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics there are professionals who are accountants and economists who would not be part of any game of smoke and mirrors, the kinds of allegations you are making. We would be very foolish indeed to do that.

We have provided the details as best we can in the budget as to where we expect to get the revenues and where we expect to have expenditure savings. I can assure the leader of the official opposition that, first of all, the Provincial Auditor already looks at the way we conduct our accounting and management of our finances in the province. Second, there is no attempt whatsoever to fudge any of the numbers.

Mrs McLeod: Nevertheless, it is difficult for us still to understand some of the transactions, one of them referred to in the statement by the Minister of Community and Social Services today, which suggests that one of the ways in which the government is going to save money is to have people on social assistance look at alternative sources of income such as unemployment insurance. It's hard to imagine that any government would describe that as a real source of savings.

There are concerns being expressed by people with strong accounting backgrounds across the province. I would just share a comment, for example, from an accountant in Hamilton who says that if he engaged in the kind of accounting practices seen in this budget, it would be fraud. Another comment, from an accountant in London who has referred to the budget as "questionable" and "strange," says that if this budget were taken to any bank, that banker would review the assumptions, draw a conclusion concerning their validity and compare the past track record of this government in meeting its forecasts. So once again, I would just ask the Treasurer whether he will simply admit to this House that his accounting practices would not be acceptable in private practice and acknowledge that his deficit is perhaps as high as \$12.8 billion.

Hon Mr Laughren: I know the official opposition, in a bizarre if not perverse kind of way, was disappointed when we were able to achieve the deficit numbers that are projected for 1992-93. I want to deal—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: Mr Speaker, could I deal directly with the first assertion in the question of the leader of the official opposition, which had to do with savings in the social assistance field. Surely to goodness, if there are social assistance recipients in this province who are entitled to either UI or Canada pension, for example, they should be receiving those payments and they should not be receiving social assistance. When that happens, and the minister made the announcement today, that is a real saving to the taxpayers of Ontario from the social assistance pot of money.

When they are in receipt of unemployment insurance, they are entitled to a certain amount of job retraining as part of UI as well. If the leader of the official opposition is saying those people should remain on social assistance, let her stand at her place and say that, but don't imply that there's not real savings to the province when they take advantage of that.

Mr Speaker—

The Speaker: New question.

Hon Mr Laughren: All right.

Mrs McLeod: Mr Speaker, I'm sorry if the Treasurer has not completed his response, because while I am prepared at any time to compare the facts of our track record in projecting the last budget deficit figure versus the Treasurer's, that's not the focus of my second question.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My second question is to the Solicitor General. It is in reference to the fact that it seems to be quite clear that this government is more and more confused about its position on Sunday shopping.

Monday and yesterday, the Treasurer stated emphatically that the government is not prepared to change its position and permit open Sunday shopping, although it seems as though he himself is beginning to feel somewhat differently on the subject. Then this morning on CBC Radio the Solicitor General stated that, "The police have been given a directive to enforce the Sunday shopping law but policing services respond to calls on a priority basis, and if this appears to be at the back of the bus, so to speak, because there's a large priority call for other services," then they would do those first.

The large retailers have figured out what lies behind these rather mixed messages and it's why so many of them have announced their intention to open for business this Sunday in defiance of the law in places like Toronto, Ottawa, London, Welland and others. They know this government has no intention of enforcing the legislation. Since the government seems to have lost the political will to enforce its own ill-conceived Sunday shopping law, may I ask the Solicitor General if he is now admitting that his own law is not enforceable, or at least not worth enforcing?

1420

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I am very pleased to add clarification for the Leader of the Opposition. The responses I made yesterday were responses to questions from the media. I indicated to them that in January I had the policing services division issue a directive to police services across the province that prosecutions and charges were to be laid where the law was being broken. There has been absolutely no change in that direction. There have been no additional directions and that direction stands.

I indicated that the situation in terms of the priority in which the police would proceed with their charges or activities would be based on the need within the community. If there were greater priorities than laying charges with

respect to Sunday opening in terms of personal injuries or property damages of some great magnitude, the police, as they always would and do, prioritize those calls, act where the public safety is in question first and then, when those kind of circumstances are concluded, move to the lesser priority calls. That's simply the situation and there's been no change in that.

Mrs McLeod: I'll certainly read Hansard for clarification, but it seems to me as though the Solicitor General's response is even more confusing than the legislation they've presented to this province. Trusted—as we understand “trusted”—NDP government adviser himself, Gerry Caplan, has been quoted as saying that, “The NDP Sunday shopping law is the wrong policy by the wrong government at the wrong time.”

The Solicitor General will be well aware that the Ontario Municipal Board has just upheld the city of Windsor's decision to have open Sunday shopping. Fortunately the Ontario Municipal Board made that decision, since the community of Windsor clearly believes this is a very important decision for its economic future. I ask the Solicitor General whether he will now start to use some common sense and give other communities the freedom of choice on this issue.

Hon Mr Pilkey: In response to the Leader of the Opposition, first of all, I appreciate her mentioning Gerry Caplan to me and when she sees him next please remind me to him. I'd appreciate her effort in that regard.

Second, in terms of the Ontario Municipal Board and its decisions, simply what has happened is the government provided a situation where tourism exemptions may be obtained by those who apply and where local communities support that application. These applications have proceeded to the board. The board—quite unlike those who had suggested it would be cumbersome, we'd never get answers within 90 days—dealt with it expeditiously and rendered a decision almost immediately.

The fact that these communities or the applicants in these communities have been successful in terms of the new process I think speaks well for the rules and regulations this government proffered with respect to this issue.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): The city of Windsor was forced to take out full-page newspaper advertisements publicizing the appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board—

Interjections.

Mr Mancini: You may think it's funny over there, but Windsor didn't think it was very funny.

It also retained the services of four law firms which devoted three weeks of time to the preparation of the city's case. Had the city had to pay the cost of these services they would have been monumental and they would have been borne by the taxpayers of Windsor.

Many communities across this province cannot afford this kind of expense, Mr Minister. Will the Solicitor General offer Ontario taxpayers, merchants and retail employees a chance for survival by repealing the NDP government's archaic and unfair Sunday shopping laws?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I would simply like to indicate that any requirements on applicants with respect to applications for tourism exemptions within municipalities are set by the municipality itself. So whatever the city of Windsor did in that regard would have been of its own volition and understandably, I suppose, at its own expense.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I also have a question for the Solicitor General and it doesn't have to do with Sunday shopping. I'm sure the Solicitor General is aware of the widespread concern—

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Terrible, obstructive, paternalistic.

Mr Runciman: I'll wait until the member for Oriole shuts her mouth.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Although all interjections are out of order, it is not helpful to have a response to an interjection by use of unparliamentary language. I would ask the member for Leeds-Grenville to withdraw his remark and ask all members of the House to allow the member the opportunity to place his question.

Mr Runciman: I withdraw the remark.

PUBLIC ORDER

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): This is an important issue, from our perspective in any event. It's directed to the Solicitor General and it has to do with the widespread concern among most residents of Metropolitan Toronto, I suspect small business people as well as residents at large, about the upcoming demonstrations scheduled for this Thursday and Saturday.

I'm asking the Solicitor General what assurances he can give the residents of Metropolitan Toronto that this Thursday and this Saturday we will not see a repetition of the violence we witnessed on the streets this Monday.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): As I indicated in a statement to the House recently, this matter of violence on the streets of Toronto is of absolute concern to me and to all members of this House and I think to all people in the city of Toronto and our province as a whole. They are actions that are not to be condoned and they are actions that are not to be allowed.

In the discussions I have had with Chief William McCormack and Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board chairman Susan Eng, the indication to me directly, and subsequently in a press conference yesterday I believe at 2 o'clock, is that the police forces of this city would act very promptly and very deliberately against any hooligans or vandals who are there to purport damage on to the public. I support their actions in that regard. I hope this kind of action would stem this unlawful act and perpetrators of that sort are dealt with in the appropriate fashion.

Mr Runciman: I suspect the residents of Toronto are looking for more than hope from the Solicitor General. They're looking for a strong indication from him today, the small-business people of Toronto who had their windows smashed and their businesses looted, that the violence that occurred in the streets of Toronto is not going to recur. That's the kind of assurance they're looking for him to give today in this House, and we're not getting it.

We saw a reaction on Tuesday, assurances from the leaders of groups protesting at the American consulate that they were not supportive of the type of activity that occurred following the demonstrations. Yet one of the leaders of those organizations, Mr Lennox Farrell, a former NDP candidate in Oriole, was arrested and booked for breach of the peace and participating in the riot. Ms Ziemba not too many weeks ago proudly appointed this gentleman co-chair of the government's Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group.

We're talking about dozens of Molotov cocktails being seized by the police. This was obviously a planned occurrence. There was nothing spontaneous about this. We want to hear some strong words from this Solicitor General that this sort of thing is not going to occur again. Let's hear it now.

Hon Mr Pilkey: I think a reasonable way to respond to the honourable member, in fairness, when he asks me as Solicitor General, or he asks any other member of this House, "What are you going to do personally to ensure the stemming and stopping of lawlessness in the streets of Toronto"—I attempted to do that and I'll attempt to assure members of this House further.

But I want to ask, by what means would the member opposite who asked the question assure us? Could he assure us that no lawbreakers and vandals will commit any actions this Thursday or Saturday or any other night in the city of Toronto? If he could not, which I suspect he could not, nor could any other person, I don't know how he would suggest I or this government could either.

What I can tell him and what I can assure him is that those lawbreakers and that unlawfulness will be dealt with very directly and very promptly by the police of this city. Chief William McCormack has suggested that, and I believe him when he says that. I believe we can trust in the men and women of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force to keep our streets safe.

Mr Runciman: In my view and the view of the Conservative Party of Ontario, that's an unbelievably irresponsible response from the chief law enforcement officer of this province. He should stand up and say that he's going to suspend Mr Farrell from his responsibilities immediately until this matter is disposed of in the courts. But we didn't hear that kind of response.

I'm saying that as the chief cop he should stand up and tell us today that if he can't guarantee public safety on Thursday and Saturday, he should assure the people of Toronto, if not the people of Ontario, that he's going to guarantee a cooling-off period, that he's going to postpone or cancel these demonstrations. If he can't stand on his feet today and assure the people of Metropolitan Toronto that these are going to be safe demonstrations and that we are not going to see the sort of thing that happened on the streets of Toronto on Monday night, he should be prepared to stand up and say: "If I can't guarantee that won't occur again, I'm going to make sure those things don't occur. There's simply going to be a postponement or a cancellation." Let's hear it from him.

Hon Mr Pilkey: I would like to suggest for a moment that this very tone and demeanour we have just heard, and this type of questioning, is exactly the kind of demeanour and approach that is part of the problem with respect to the situation. It's not a time—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member for Leeds-Grenville please resume his seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. This House stands in recess for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1433.

1443

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: This is obviously a very emotional subject for me. After you left the House, I made some comments in respect to the member for Victoria-Haliburton which I regret. In case they were recorded by Hansard, I want to withdraw those remarks.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I too said some things that I think perhaps are better not said in this place, so I apologize to any member who might have been offended by them.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Last week, during the budget debate, I said some things to the leader of the official opposition which I also regret. I believe they were also recorded in Hansard. I forwarded a letter of apology to the leader of the official opposition, but I'd like to do it here in this House in front of all the members. I regret what I said last week and I would like to withdraw that as well.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I appreciate the many comments.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: In carrying on with the points of order that the honourable members have just made, I was hoping that the member for Simcoe Centre might take it upon himself to withdraw the comments he made during the hiatus, shall we say, that we had for 10 minutes.

I can remember quite distinctly the Treasurer and Deputy Premier of this province getting up and making a very emotional statement in this House about similar comments made by the member for Burlington South once upon a time. It seems that it's fair on that side of the House, Mr Speaker, but over there they don't have any rules and they're not supposed to have any class or respect for parliamentary tradition either.

Mr Norm Jamison (Norfolk): Mr Speaker, I believe that in the time we spent out with the House adjourned many members from all sides of the House made remarks. I say to you that in my own view that is very unfortunate. We could probably spend a great deal of time pursuing this issue further. I am not personally happy with the demeanour of this House over the last few minutes in session.

The Speaker: To the points of order raised by a number of members, I must remind members that while I very

much appreciate the fact that they have apologized for unparliamentary language, when the House is in recess there is nothing that any Speaker can do, nor is he knowledgeable of language that was used in the chamber in the absence of anyone occupying the chair.

My observation of course is that especially during very sensitive and difficult issues, it would be helpful if everyone tried not to use intemperate language and tried to discuss the issues at hand. But I do appreciate the fact that members have apologized for a variety of remarks made which were unparliamentary.

We left off with a final supplementary being allowed. I believe the member for Oakville South wishes to ask that.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): This is, I believe, the second question, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Solicitor General. Yesterday the Treasurer tried to tap-dance his way out of the moral corner this government has painted itself into, but retailers are fed up with the moral flip-flops and many have decided to open this coming Sunday. Do you intend to further harass these retailers by cracking down on stores that open this Sunday?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): First, at no time did this government harass any store owners. Second, there have been no directions other than those very sage and important directions that were given some three months ago to police services with respect to enforcement, and there are none anticipated.

Mr Carr: This government's seesaw morality is making Ontario dizzy. It's okay to shop in December, but it's not okay to shop in May, but we're going to have casino gambling 12 months of the year. Mr Solicitor General, we want to see if you can help us. Your Treasurer is short of cash. Border communities right now are crying out for help. Can you explain to us why bringing casinos to Ontario is okay but shopping on Sunday is not?

Hon Mr Pilkey: First, in terms of casinos, as I recall the Treasurer's budget, there was an indication that there would be broad consultations with municipalities, first nations and charitable groups. Certainly the government would not propose to go into any community or area with a casino where it was not welcome or there was not a willing host. My impression, though, from reading some press reports is that a lot of communities are quite anxious to be involved in a government-owned and government-operated casino and would see it as a benefit in terms of job creation and tax revenue for those municipalities, particularly some that are border communities.

With respect to the common pause day and the worker protection legislation, the government acted through proper consultations and debate in committee, which the member opposite participated in, and brought to the question the view it saw appropriate.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): We on this side are trying to find out what exactly you're saying. We had the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, we had the Treasurer, we had the Premier, we had yourself yesterday, we had the budget last week: All those documents say

you are going to have gambling in this province. On the one hand you are going to continue the ban on Sunday shopping, and yet on the other hand you're going to allow Sunday gambling, which is a very strange paradox indeed for the highly moralistic NDP. My question to the minister is, will you confirm, one way or another, whether you intend to allow Sunday gambling in your gambling casinos in this province?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I am not at all aware of any decision with respect to the hours of operation or days of the week that casinos would be allowed. I would suspect that would be in direct consultation with the municipalities and the authorities involved in the specific area.

1450

GOVERNMENT ASSETS

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Treasurer and has to do with the whole issue of credibility of the budget.

As the Treasurer will know, it is his plan over the next three years to sell off what can only be regarded, I think, as huge amounts of public land, public buildings and public assets. According to the budget, over the next three years you plan to sell off about \$4 billion worth of these assets. In fact, you plan to raise more money through this than you do through your tax increases. So far, Treasurer, of that \$4 billion, you have identified only about 5%, SkyDome and Suncor. My question to the Treasurer is this: Will you tell the House today what are those assets and those public lands and those public buildings that you plan to sell off to raise the remaining 95% of the funds you plan to achieve?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): What we have done through the budgetary process and through planning for the medium term, is to take a look at what we think is the likely growth in the economy, to look at what's probable for tax increases, although no decisions have been made in those out-years, I think for obvious reasons, and we've looked also at the possibility of selling some non-strategic assets in the medium term.

The member for Scarborough-Agincourt is quite correct that we've certainly identified Suncor, which is about half sold now. We've identified SkyDome, which we expect will be sold this fiscal year; I certainly hope so. We've identified about \$400 million through the Ontario Land Corp, which is being reactivated, and for 1992-93, I am talking about another \$435 million in some other non-strategic assets.

At this point in time, those assets have not all been identified. We are in the process of doing a major review—that was part of the program reviews of treasury board—and when the specific assets to be sold have been determined and identified, then we'll make that announcement, but I think it would not be appropriate to identify all those assets at this point. I don't think that would be a very good sales strategy.

Mr Phillips: The problem we have is credibility. You've said that you're going to sell about \$4 billion. Surely you owe the public this: at least to say, "These are the assets we own." You don't have to say, "We're going to

sell these," but you say: "Here are the assets we own. Here's the possible full range from which we will get our \$4 billion." That's my problem, Treasurer, that you refuse to divulge to the House the list of them.

Will you undertake to provide the House with the list of the total assets from which you are going to sell your \$4 billion worth? I don't care which of them you're actually going to sell, but I think you owe the House the listing so we can say, "Yes, it's reasonable that you can get \$4 billion over the next three years out of that," whatever the total number of assets.

My question is this: Will you undertake, on a very rapid basis, to provide the House with those numbers so that as we look at your budget, we can have more confidence than, frankly, we've got right now in these numbers?

Hon Mr Laughren: It is a fair question. My concern is whether it would be astute business practice to identify the items we were assembling in an attempt to obtain some revenues for the province. I am not sure that's fair. There's no attempt to be secretive. We know the province has literally billions and billions of dollars of assets. I've tried to explain to the member that treasury board is conducting, as part of its program review, an inventory of the government's assets. We know they're very substantial but we don't have them; I can't show them to you at this point. I just want to assure the member opposite that when we do dispose of the assets they'll be non-strategic assets and they'll be disposed of in a very businesslike way.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Solicitor General. On April 21, the headline in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record read as follows: "Caution Way of Life for Young Women: Area Teens Fear They Are Not Safe."

In light of this concern for personal safety, I would like to focus on a letter the Solicitor General received from the Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children. They are concerned, as are people throughout this province, about the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies concerning the case of serial killers. The lack of sharing of information is resulting in the failure to obtain multiple convictions for serial killers. This has resulted in shortened sentences and early parole of these individuals, who are likely to kill again.

Solicitor General, what are you doing to allay the fears of teenage girls? What is your ministry doing to ensure that information about serial killers is collected and freely distributed among law enforcement agencies? What steps have you taken to collaborate with your counterparts in other provinces and with the federal government?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): The member raises a very valid point, and one of concern, where all police agencies condemn this kind of crime, as all of us in the public do. I think all of them have made a very strong effort in apprehending criminals and those who perpetrate these kinds of heinous crimes. I do believe, though, there is additional work that can be done on a collaborative basis, on a national basis.

Officials of my ministry, through the policing services division, will be discussing the matter further to see if there can be an enhancement, a built-on kind of situation, so that there can be further tracking and additional information sharing to all law enforcement agencies across the nation. We hope to enlist the federal government with respect to that kind of initiative.

Mrs Witmer: Solicitor General, I find it totally unbelievable. You received this letter several weeks ago, as I did, and you have taken absolutely no action, considering all that's happened in this province in recent weeks. The fact remains that every day women and children in this province are the victims of violence. The recent murder of Kristen French, possibly by a serial killer, is adding to the concern of people in this province.

It is totally unacceptable that serial killers are convicted of only one or two killings as a result of a failure by law enforcement agencies to share information about these crimes. It is absolutely imperative that much more be done to ensure that these individuals be held accountable for their actions and that they be removed from society so they cannot repeat their heinous crimes.

Solicitor General, will you promise, will you give the women and children in this province your assurance, that you will actually take steps to make the identification and the apprehension of serial killers a top priority for police forces throughout Ontario? I want you to stop the planning and I want you to take action, please.

Hon Mr Pilkey: I am assured that all police forces are cooperating with one another and assisting one another on this, and on other issues for that matter. I can say quite simply that I can respond—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Pilkey: I'd like to add in a more positive vein that, yes, I am pleased to assure the member that this ministry and the police forces of Ontario are absolutely committed to working with other provincial agencies and national organizations with respect to further enhancing the circumstance.

Mr Jackson: Why should we pay for Americans to do the forensics?

The Speaker: Member for Burlington South, come to order. New question.

Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East): I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I would ask the member for Burlington South to come to order.

1500

ASSISTED HOUSING

Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East): Again, to the Minister of Financial Institutions. Mr Minister, I have a meeting this evening with the residents of Greenhill Housing Cooperative, and I'd like some information from you about the co-op amendment act you introduced in the House in December. Will these amendments affect the

relationship between members of the co-op and the co-op executive? As well, will any of these amendments mean major changes to either the bylaws or the operation of a co-op?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions): The member's question is one that's been of concern to a number of co-op members across the province who happen to live and be members in non-profit cooperative housing situations.

The amendments we introduced in December will not change in a fundamental way the way cooperatives operate. It will not fundamentally change the relationship between the members of the cooperative as a group and the executive or board of directors of the co-op, and it will not fundamentally change the way in which the bylaws of a cooperative operate.

On the other hand, there are parts of the amendments which deal specifically with the relationship between individual members and the whole membership and the executive or the board of directors, and with the questions of how cooperatives deal with problems internally in terms of the removal of problem tenants or members from their midst and cause them to change their bylaws in accordance with the Human Rights Code and a number of other pieces of legislation. Co-ops will remain democratic institutions where the majority of the membership will make the basic decisions, though.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): My question is to the Minister of Labour. The minister knows well that labour leaders and the NDP government are clearly on record as being steadfastly opposed to Sunday shopping. The NDP has repeatedly stated that its goal is to prevent exploitation of labour and to preserve a common pause day.

In light of this policy, could the minister explain why print shops had to be willing to work on Sunday in order to receive a contract to print the NDP budget?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I'd like to refer that to the Treasurer.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): If I understood the question correctly—and I perhaps didn't, because at the beginning I thought it was going to be a question dealing more specifically with the Ministry of Labour—the contract for the budget was put out and assigned to a company that was prepared to deliver the budget on time and was able to put in place the kind of security that is necessary around the budget document. You will recall that a printer of another day allowed some paper to be released and caused great embarrassment to the Treasurer of the day. So the issue of which printer it went to had nothing to do with Sunday shopping or Sunday work.

Mrs Caplan: My question to the Treasurer is not only about policy hypocrisy, but I question the response he's just given. An official of Treasury said an ability to work on Sunday was a condition of the contract; that is a spokesman from the ministry. The shop could not get the contract if they didn't work on Sunday, is what we've

heard. Yet the NDP denies shopkeepers the right to open on Sundays, and this NDP government forced non-union print shop workers to work on Sunday simply so it could meet its budget deadline.

I would ask the Treasurer, how can this NDP government make working on Sunday a condition of getting a government contract and deny the opportunity to businesses that want to be open on Sunday? Don't you see the contradiction, the inconsistency and the hypocrisy of that policy?

Hon Mr Laughren: I've never seen such tortured logic in my entire life. I have no idea what point the member for Oriole is trying to make. I would just say that when the contract was put out, there was a very tight time frame, as there always is, in order to get the budget printed on time for the announced day. Who knows? Sometimes the opposition even calls for the budget to be tabled a day earlier. You have to be very careful and make sure the budget is done on time, and that's what we were trying to do—nothing more.

NATIVE HUNTING AND FISHING

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My question is for the Attorney General. When the issue of native Ontarians spearing and netting spawning fish in designated sanctuaries was raised in the Legislature on April 8, you said, "The question contains some assertions which are frankly not true." Minister, I'm sending you copies of some of the recent stories and photographs from the Kitchener-Waterloo Record which clearly indicate this widespread abuse is occurring at the sanctuary at Denny's dam, on the Saugeen River, on the banks of the Napanee River and along the banks of the Moira River.

Attorney General, your government's interim enforcement policy states quite clearly that status native people will not be permitted to harvest fish in a manner which puts conservation objectives at risk, such as in sanctuaries. The information I have given you shows quite concisely that conservation objectives as laid out in your government's interim enforcement policy are at risk. What are you going to do about it?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister of Natural Resources. However, as he is not here today, I will attempt to respond to the member as best I can.

The conservation officers within the Ministry of Natural Resources have the responsibility to enforce the fish and wildlife regulations and provisions, and they have the duty to interpret, in this context, when fishing and hunting practices represent a threat to the proper conservation and management of a resource. So at the local level, conservation officers have to monitor these situations. If they believe the conservation of the resource is put at risk, then they will have to make a decision on whether to lay charges under the appropriate act and regulations. That is clearly their duty. I suspect conservation officers throughout the province work very diligently and with great effort to ensure that the legislation and regulations are upheld and that conservation is given its appropriate emphasis.

Mr McLean: Attorney General, you're well aware of the pictures. You've seen them spearing and netting fish. In your opinion, do you believe these people who are spearing, regardless of who they are, should be charged?

Hon Mr Hampton: Just to be clear, I do not tell police when they should lay charges or when they should not, and I do not have the jurisdiction to tell conservation officers when they should lay charges or when they should not. The role of crown attorneys and provincial prosecutors within the Ministry of the Attorney General is to take charges, once they have been laid, and determine if those charges should go forth. Likewise, the people who are best placed to most appropriately determine if conservation is placed at risk by some hunting and fishing activities are the conservation officers in the province, who are well trained and very professional in carrying out their responsibilities.

1510

PLANT CLOSURE

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. As not only the member for St Catharines knows but also the other members from the Niagara Peninsula, my constituents have definitely asked me this question, particularly the people from the Canadian Auto Workers, Local 199.

Interjection.

Ms Haeck: If the member for St George-St David would allow me to place my question, my constituents are anxious to know what the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology is doing to save the foundry that General Motors announced in February will close, to assist them or to save the jobs that will be lost in St Catharines.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): As all the members from that area know, our ministry was instrumental in setting up the regional task force which is developing a community-based action plan to respond to the concerns of the region and the economy of the region as a whole. We've also reached an agreement to establish a self-help centre in St Catharines that will assist entrepreneurs, including, potentially, laid-off workers, to establish small businesses and to create new jobs.

Under our leadership an interministerial committee has been established for regional economic adjustment, and the committee coordinates the efforts of all the Ontario ministries to deal with the area.

Mr Speaker, 1,800 positions have been transferred from the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation into the area, and the ministry is also intensifying its efforts to meet with the major corporations in this area to create new jobs.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): We knew all that last week. Why is this question being asked now?

Ms Haeck: I understand that maybe the member's constituents aren't interested in this—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for St George-St David. The member for St Catharines-Brock, take your seat.

Mr Scott: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: This information was announced last week and I don't see why we have a question about something that's stale news.

The Speaker: The member has a point of interest but not a point of order. The member for St Catharines-Brock may ask her supplementary.

Ms Haeck: I understand that possibly the member for St George-St David is not interested in this, but I do know that my constituents are. Jobs have been lost, and as a result of that February announcement—

Mr Scott: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The honourable member is imputing motives. I complained that the announcement she was seeking has already been made and that the announcement is old news. She's not entitled to impute motives with respect to that observation.

The Speaker: At no time is any member of the assembly permitted to impute motives to other members. I invite the member for St Catharines-Brock to place her supplementary.

Ms Haeck: For the information of this House, on Friday at 3:30 there will be a major demonstration in St Catharines to save the foundry. In fact, we are expecting many thousands of people to attend that. I will be in attendance and I suspect that the member for St Catharines will also be in attendance. So these particular bits of information are important to my constituents and I will continue with my question.

Interjection.

Ms Haeck: Thank you, to the member for Oriole. I do understand that, but jobs have been lost; they need help.

The Speaker: Would the member place her supplementary.

Ms Haeck: More jobs are expected to be lost over the next three years and I would like to know what the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology is going—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat. Thank you. The member may place her question.

Ms Haeck: More jobs are expected to be lost over the next three years, and I would like to know and I know my constituents would like to know what the minister and his ministry can do to assist the community.

Hon Mr Philip: I know that both the member for St Catharines-Brock and the member for St Catharines, whom I've had an opportunity to meet and discuss this issue with, are interested in this issue and would like an answer—

Interjections.

Hon Mr Philip: —even though his colleague the member for Oriole wants to constantly interrupt as I'm trying to give an answer.

The Speaker: Would the minister direct his response to the Chair.

Hon Mr Philip: The member for Oriole says she's trying to help. She hasn't helped anybody in this House in years.

The Speaker: I would ask the minister to direct his response to the Chair.

Hon Mr Philip: Particularly members of her own party and the member for St Catharines—

The Speaker: Would the minister take his seat?

Interjections.

The Speaker: I would ask the minister to briefly respond, to the question only.

Hon Mr Philip: No doubt everyone will agree with the member for St Catharines and the member for St Catharines-Brock about the very high quality of the workforce in the foundry. Indeed, General Motors, when it announced this decision, said it was a business decision concerned with excess capacity. In fact, it is rationalizing throughout North America.

I have met with the Minister of Labour. We have discussed with the federal government the concerns of the workers in this area and how we are working together as a team to resolve these problems. We are addressing—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the minister complete his response to the question.

Hon Mr Philip: I'm trying very hard, over the noise of the opposition, to complete an answer.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member for York Mills come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask all members to cooperate and I ask the minister to succinctly complete his response so that another member may ask a question.

Hon Mr Philip: We are working with the Ministry of Labour and the federal government on developing some retraining programs. We are addressing the retraining and placement needs of the affected workers. I've spoken with the mayor, with the president of GM Canada on several occasions, and indeed with all members from the area. These discussions are ongoing. I can assure you that the municipal elected officials and members of all parties in the St Catharines area appreciate that we are working together as a team to deal with the economic problems, which are North American economic problems related to GM. We're dealing with those problems.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): My question is for the Treasurer. One of the cornerstones of the government's job creation program has been the Jobs Ontario homes fund, which the government claims will generate \$2.1 billion worth of work for the construction industry over the next three years by the building of 20,000 non-profit homes. I have two questions for you. First of all, can you tell us, of the 20,000 promised in this year's budget, how many units will be built this year? Second, how many jobs in the construction industry do you expect to generate this fiscal year through the 20,000 non-profit project?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I think I'd best refer that question to the Minister of Housing who has more specific information.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Because we are completing units at the level of 25,000 units this year, wrapping up the end of the former Liberal government's Homes Now program, plus the 10,000 units in last year's budget, we'll be moving ahead with the 20,000 allocation from the budget at the tail-end of this year to the extent of several hundred units.

Ms Poole: The Ministry of Housing and the Minister of Housing continue to throw a camouflage net over this entire thing by talking about commitments, allocations, 25,000 units. The fact of the matter is, and the sad news is, that in last year's budget 10,000 new units were allocated and today not one of those is in the ground and not one job has been created.

Given that information, I defy the minister to show how the announcement of 20,000 non-profit homes will generate construction jobs in the coming fiscal year. It's more of the government's smoke and mirrors and voodoo economics. This is not a job creation project for now. What are you going to do in the housing field to create jobs now?

Hon Ms Gigantes: The member is simply wrong. The number of units which will be completed this year is 25,000 and the number of people who will be employed creating those units is well over that. What we are looking at is a three-year program which was clearly spelled out in the budget. The allocations will be beginning in the fall of this year, the work will be going on in the fall of this year and I hope the member will enjoy, with all other members of the House, the construction jobs that will be created and the new and affordable housing that will be generated for people in Ontario through this program this year.

1520

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): My question is for the Attorney General. A short time ago, one of my constituents was assaulted in a non-contact hockey game. As a result of the assault, my constituent was rendered a quadriplegic. The individual has filed a claim, Mr Attorney General, with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Although the case has not yet come before the board, the chair of the board has already publicly stated the following: "I am frightened of this one. It would open another floodgate for us in every person who was injured in a sports arena coming to us, and I don't think Ontario can afford it." In light of this negative statement made by the chair of the board, how can my constituent expect to receive a fair and objective hearing?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): While I have been made aware of the particular case and while I did read a media report about the particular case, I'm not specifically aware of the comment, so I would like to have the opportunity to ascertain if that comment was indeed made. The chair of that board is very concerned about the amounts of money which are available to the board for the

compensation of victims of crime and the chair of the board is obviously concerned, and I believe has expressed his concern on other occasions, that the board should attempt or receive some assistance in determining how wide its net should be cast.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Burlington South.

Hon Mr Hampton: I can tell you that within the Ministry of the Attorney General we are doing a policy review of the board to determine what kinds of injuries should fall within the jurisdiction of the board.

Mr Jordan: I will send over the information I have to the Attorney General. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, as I understand it, was designed to potentially serve victims such as my constituent. My constituent's claim before the criminal injuries board has been prejudiced. What is the minister prepared to do to ensure that my constituent receives a fair and objective hearing?

Hon Mr Hampton: Just to be sure, I think it would be unfair of the member to draw any conclusions at this point in time. I do not know if the chair of the board indeed made those comments and I don't know if those comments were made in the context of this particular case.

But let me say in a general way that the work of this board would be much easier if the current federal government had not given notice this year that it is withdrawing funding which was designated for the purpose of compensating victims of crime. If the federal government were not cutting down on its allocation of funds for this purpose, it would be much easier for the board to meet all the claims which come before it.

The Speaker: It seems like an appropriate time. The time allotted for oral questions has expired.

VISITORS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): If I could capture the attention of the members for a moment, members may wish to welcome to our gallery two former members seated in the members' gallery west: the former member for Dovercourt, Mr Tony Lupusella, and the former member for Prince Edward-Lennox, Mr Jim Taylor. Welcome.

PETITIONS

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwanted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have also affixed my signature.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I have a petition also addressed to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwanted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I had phone calls from people in that area this morning and they are very concerned about the undemocratic way that this is being done.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition of approximately 250 signatures addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the current government is considering legalizing casinos in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in the racing industry; and

"Whereas studies show these proposals could affect some 50,000 jobs within the industry;

"That the government stop looking to casinos as a quick-fix solution to pay down the deficit."

I have affixed my name to that petition.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): There are too many people standing up. I can't identify who wants to speak. The member for S-D-G and East Grenville.

LIVESTOCK REQUIREMENTS

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I also have a petition to the honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature of Ontario. It's signed by 115

very concerned rural residents in my riding and it reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to not change the requirements for the slaughter of livestock for consumption by the grower or producer."

I fully endorse this petition and have signed it.

1530

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

This concludes the hundreds of petitions I've had sent to me on this issue.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have thousands of names on petitions that have been gathered in my area for a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

These are a number of signatures, as I said, of the thousands we've received in Grey county.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): This morning I received an additional some 3,000 signatures to bring them to a total of almost 120,000 on the petition. These are predominantly from the Peterborough-Hastings area ridings in this province. This petition reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of this adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, rather leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister of francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under this act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

It has my signature of support.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr McLean from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's third report.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Does the member for Simcoe East wish to make a brief statement?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): Not at this time.

The Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 104(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr White from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the committee's report and moved its adoption.

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr1, An Act respecting FaithWay Baptist College of Canada;

Bill Pr11, An Act to revive 372595 Ontario Limited;

Bill Pr26, An Act to revive The Peterborough Club.

Your committee recommends that the fees and the actual cost of printing at all stages and in the annual statutes be remitted on Bill Pr1, An Act respecting FaithWay Baptist College of Canada.

Your committee further recommends that the following bill be not reported, it having been withdrawn by the applicant:

Bill Pr23, An Act respecting the Borough of East York.
Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992

MODIFIANT LA LOI DE LA TAXE SUR L'ESSENCE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act / Loi portant modification de la Loi de la taxe sur l'essence.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for Ottawa West, I believe you had the floor yesterday.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I spent a considerable amount of time yesterday and I am going to wrap up in short order today, but just to put in context my comments of today, I very, very briefly want to summarize what I touched on yesterday, which is available in Hansard.

First of all, I want to reiterate that we are dealing with Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, and I want to underline that this is a budget bill from last year's budget, that is, the budget of April 29, 1991, and we're addressing its provisions today on third reading.

One of the points that I did make yesterday is the tremendous impact on costing the province jobs of the hundreds of millions of dollars that are being taken out of the system by this particular bill. I also mentioned yesterday that the impact of this bill really ignored a lot of regional realities with respect to the price of gasoline, in particular the impact on cross-border shopping and the border communities. I also spent considerable time yesterday dealing with the situation in Ottawa-Carleton and the price of gasoline.

With that, I want to refer particularly to the explanatory note in Bill 86 which indicates:

"The amendments implement the Treasurer's 1991 budget proposal to increase the tax on unleaded gasoline, effective the 30th day of April, 1991, by 1.7 cents to 13.0 cents per litre and, effective the 1st day of January, 1992, by another 1.7 cents to 14.7 cents per litre."

What that does is exacerbate the very serious situation with respect to the price of gasoline in Ottawa-Carleton.

I addressed in a very detailed way that particular provision yesterday, and I indicated, and I want to underline again today, that the provincial government regularly surveys gasoline prices across the province. The Ottawa area, for example, in 22 out of 23 weeks had the highest or second-highest gasoline price across the province. In fact, regularly the gas prices in Ottawa-Carleton are about 10 cents a litre above the price of gasoline in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

I wanted to bring to the attention of the Legislature the very significant concern of the people in Ottawa-Carleton and I did introduce and refer to yesterday very extensive

articles of investigative journalism dealing with this particular issue.

I referred to a letter of the mayor of the city of Ottawa, the capital of Canada, to the Minister of Energy concerning his very great concern about the impact of these high gasoline prices on the residents of Ottawa. I also referred to a unanimous resolution of regional council of Ottawa-Carleton. I also put on record letters and comments from various unions that are very concerned about the price of gasoline and the particular geographical problem in Ottawa-Carleton.

I also put on record yesterday a letter from the federal member of Parliament in Ottawa Centre expressing his concern, in a very thoughtful and researched way, to the Minister of Energy, which is very unlike the provincial member for Ottawa Centre, from who we have heard nary a peep on this particular issue on behalf of the people in Ottawa-Carleton.

When the debate adjourned yesterday, I had just concluded reading the response of the then Minister of Energy, Mr Ferguson, to the federal MP's letter. I want to make a few brief comments on his letter and then very briefly refer to another piece of correspondence in response to that.

What we're talking about here is a very significant discrepancy in the price of gasoline across the province and particularly how Bill 86 really exacerbates the situation, from a geographical perspective, for cross-border communities in one instance and, in this instance, for the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

First, in the minister's letter to the federal member in Ottawa-Centre he indicated that one of the best ways to solve the problem was "by improving the level of competition." Very briefly, that letter was dated August 19, 1991, and this government and the ministry has done absolutely nothing to improve the level of competition to ameliorate the gas pricing discrepancies across the province.

The minister also said in his response, "Within Ontario, the only tax which contributes to regional tax differences is the federal GST." That's totally and absolutely untrue. This very government has addressed gas pricing inequities by providing a subsidy through the licensing provisions for motor vehicles in the north, so this government itself has absolutely acknowledged the gas price discrepancies in this province, that they do in fact exist. It is inconceivable that the Minister of Energy himself would say, "Within Ontario, the only tax which contributes to regional tax differences is the federal GST."

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I really hate to interrupt my colleague, because he is so interesting, but there is no quorum present.

The Deputy Speaker: I will ask the table if there is a quorum.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is not present, Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1543

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: A quorum is now present, Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present. The member for Ottawa West.

Mr Chiarelli: The then Minister of Energy in his response also indicated that he would continue to monitor pricing. How hollow. The record shows quite clearly that week after week gasoline prices in Ottawa-Carleton basically are the highest in the province, with one or two occasional exceptions. Those exceptions occur in the north, where they already receive what amounts to a subsidy for gasoline prices.

The minister's response also indicates that, "It is our intention to investigate ways to ensure that a highly competitive gasoline retail market exists in Ontario." I again hark back to the fact that this letter is dated August 19, 1991. There has been absolutely no evidence whatsoever that this government has done anything to ensure that a highly competitive gasoline market will exist in Ontario. The plight of the Ottawa-Carleton driver or motorist continues. The high gasoline prices continue in Ottawa-Carleton and this government continues to totally ignore the representations being made by people and interest groups from Ottawa-Carleton.

In response to the minister's letter, which in fact is addressed to the federal member for Ottawa Centre, the member for Ottawa Centre responded with a brief letter. I want to put that on record because I think it is very enlightening. It says:

"Dear Mr Ferguson

"Please accept my thanks for responding to my letter about the gas price disparities between the Ottawa area and southern Ontario. I was happy to receive a reply so quickly.

"With your indulgence, I ask that you expand some of the comments you made in explaining regional marketing conditions. Specifically, you partially blamed regional disparities on the goods and services tax. However, as you know, the 7% GST applies all across Canada with no regional concessions. I fail to see how the GST causes the regional tax differences to which you referred and would appreciate an explanation of your reasoning."

If I can digress, of course there was no explanation because the statement was completely inconceivable in the first instance. To go on with the letter:

"As well, you mentioned that your ministry is monitoring the price of gasoline across the province on a weekly basis. I would be interested in receiving details of this monitoring mechanism and how it operates.

"Similarly, you stated that your ministry intends to investigate ways of ensuring a competitive gasoline market in Ontario. When do you intend to start such an investigation and how will you execute it?"

If I can digress again, there simply has been nothing forthcoming from the government on that particular point. To go on with the letter:

"Finally, I ask that you share with me your plans with regard to the federal government. Do you plan to work with the government of Canada to eliminate the pump price disparities that exist between regions of Ontario? If yes, when do you expect to initiate such a partnership?"

That's the end of the letter. Of course, there are absolutely no answers whatsoever from the government as to how they are going to ameliorate the impact of Bill 86, this very significant price of gasoline for the people of Ottawa-Carleton.

I want to conclude with a few more words. The issue very simply is that there has been very significant outcry, very significant representation made to this government about the price of gasoline in Ottawa-Carleton. There has been no responsiveness whatsoever. The case has not been made in cabinet; the case has not been made in the NDP caucus by the member for Ottawa Centre. That is one reason I took some pains and effort to put various matters on the record in this particular debate.

I want to conclude by putting in a few quotes to reiterate what the record shows versus the promise of this government and how it relates to Bill 86. In particular, on August 17, 1990, just over a year and a half ago, the Premier, then Leader of the Opposition, told the Thunder Bay Times-News, and I'm quoting:

"He restated a campaign promise made last week that the NDP government would empower the provincial energy commission, as he called it, to bring in a one-price system for gasoline in the province. 'I really think consumers are being ripped off by gas companies,' he said."

Two other very brief quotes from the Premier before I conclude: Not only did the Premier promise a one-price gas system for Ontario, but on August 13, 1990, not that long ago, he told a radio audience that he would ensure the province had the legal power to prevent gas price gouging. Finally, even after he was elected, several days after the election, the Premier told the Toronto Star that he "vows to bar price gouging by oil companies."

The residents of Ottawa-Carleton very simply want to know why there's a 10-cent gas discrepancy between Toronto and Ottawa-Carleton. This government refuses to investigate or answer in any way, shape or form. It is absolutely unacceptable. Even though we're beyond the point where amendments can be made to Bill 86 to address the concerns of the residents of Ottawa-Carleton, I would encourage the government quite simply to second several experienced people from one or two of the ministries, perhaps do a consultant's contract and respond to the people of Ottawa-Carleton.

I'm making that request on their behalf. They've been living with this problem for a long time, and I urge the government to try to solve it.

1550

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I've listened to the comments made by the member. Many of his comments appear to deal with price fixing in the Ottawa-Carleton area, which may be a relevant issue as far as his riding is concerned, but I think as far as this bill is concerned it really is not relevant and perhaps should be brought in in the form of other legislation.

I will say that of course the concern our party has is with the overall effect of the gas increase of essentially 1.7 cents

last year and 1.7 cents this year. The bill does deal with a couple of other measures to combat tax evasion. That has been referred to in other matters in this debate.

I think the fact of the matter is that this bill will result in an increase in gasoline of 56.6% relative to the gas rate that existed when our party left power in the early 1980s. That's a tremendous increase—56.6%. I think that's something we need to look at. The price fixing certainly is an issue I sympathize with my friend the member for Ottawa West about—I do sympathize with him on that—but dealing strictly with this bill it's a matter that does affect the overall economy. He did start to deal with it, but really started to get into another area which probably has very little to do with this particular bill. Hopefully in his response he will summarize in a more relevant fashion how this bill is going to affect the overall economy of this province.

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): Very briefly, I think the member for Ottawa West points out a rather perplexing problem that there doesn't seem to be an easy solution for. I think the member for Ottawa West will know that in fact a local citizen from his community spearheaded a drive to lower oil prices and gasoline prices in that community and had the support, if I recall, of the local newspaper. That drive didn't gain a lot of momentum, didn't gain a lot of support from the consumers, because I think after a week with much support, much public support, much media attention to the problem, gas prices fell about two tenths of one per cent. So although there is considerable concern about the price of gasoline in this particular area of the province, that concern obviously is not widely shared by everyone in the city of Ottawa, given that this campaign was not as successful as some had hoped it would be.

I think the member knows that Ottawa is somewhat further distant from the refineries in places in southern Ontario. That contributes of course to the price. Generally, not only in the eastern part of the province but in the northern part of the province as well, gasoline is more expensive than it is in the southern part of the province, primarily because you don't have as many consumers and you don't have as many retail outlets. In other parts of the province consumers do shop the price and buy the lowest price going. That in turn drives the price down. That, combined with the distance from market, makes a considerable difference in the price.

I also want to point out that in the eastern area of this country they have regulated a price only to see the price rise.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired. Questions or comments?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I'm going to comment on the comments from the member for Ottawa West, but I do find it curious that a member opposite could stand and make the comments about distance and consumers and reflect the prices of gasoline. With all due respect, it would be hard to believe two or three years ago that you'd find a socialist in this House becoming an apologist for the oil companies. You'd never think the day would come.

When in opposition—and maybe this is the trouble—some of the members who sat in the previous term should explain to the members who were recently elected what your opposition party policy was with respect to the price of gasoline in northern Ontario and eastern Ontario. It is exactly 180 degrees opposite to the speech we just heard from the member for Kitchener. I'm shocked to hear this coming from an avowed socialist, and I'm shocked that their policies have changed so dramatically from one price for Ontario, right across Ontario, to becoming public apologists for the gas companies.

Having said that, we can cast our minds back to those days in opposition when this government was steadfastly committed to assuring and promising the people in northern Ontario and eastern Ontario that they wouldn't be gouged at the pumps again. We've heard nothing about that promise until today when one of their backbenchers from Kitchener stands and becomes a public apologist for the gas companies. Shame on you.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): I find it absolutely absurd that the very party that bought Suncor—that kind of flat-headed socialism that wanted to own a major oil company—they promised us then that everything in the oil companies would be satisfied and glorified and beautiful with that kind of flat-headed socialism that, of course, we are now taking care of. I find it quite absurd that the member who lives just south of my riding would advocate things like that.

Mr Chiarelli: I am not interested in getting involved in the right-wing/left-wing rhetoric. I am only interested in trying to advance a case on behalf of the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

If I can respond very briefly to the member for Dufferin-Peel, the question of disparate gas prices in the province is very relevant. In fact the government, when it brought in this particular increase—

The Deputy Speaker: Excuse me. Would you please refrain from debating from one side to another? If you want to address the House, just stand up and I'll recognize you. The member for Ottawa West.

Mr Chiarelli: When the NDP government introduced Bill 86 in the last budget, it acknowledged that there were price disparities in the province and it made an accommodation with the north by giving concessions on the licensing fees. I think that was worth something like \$50 million, and I am saying that, if they recognized the disparity in the north in connection with Bill 86, they should at least look into the price disparities that exist, and the member for Kitchener has no answer.

As a former Energy minister, I am absolutely appalled that a former Energy minister would make the comments that he did. What he basically did was say: "The problem is yours, Ottawa-Carleton. If you don't know how to organize a boycott, well be damned, you can live with the high price of gasoline in Ottawa-Carleton." Totally and absolutely giving up the responsibility of government, and coming from a former Minister of Energy, that is absolutely appalling.

There are widespread gas price disparities. This government must assume the responsibility. It must simply say to the people of Ottawa-Carleton: "We understand you have a problem. We will look into it. We will research it on your behalf. We may be able to solve it, we may not." That's all we're asking for Ottawa-Carleton.

Mr Tilson: Mr Speaker, before I commence, I don't believe there's a quorum.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1601

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present. Member for Dufferin-Peel, you have the floor.

Mr Tilson: It's a pleasure to speak on the subject of Bill 86, which is the Gasoline Tax Amendment Act. I must say at the outset I was disappointed the Minister of Revenue had no introductory comments, having considered the fact that we have a bill that was first introduced as a result of the last budget, the fact that a tax of 1.7 cents on our gasoline started April 30, 1991, and a further 1.7 cents started January 1, 1992, and the effect I am sure she has been receiving from all areas of our economy—the trucking industry, the tourism industry, the farming industry; many, many industries. It is fortunate, of course, that the current budget did not result in a further tax increase, but certainly this is something I think the minister should take a long, hard look at as to what she is doing as part of a very serious economic recession, and this is part of it, the taxes that are going on in this province, the many taxes that have developed really in the last 10 years. The people of this province have probably had as much as they can take, and this is just one of many.

As I have indicated, this bill does increase the gasoline tax 1.7 cents a litre, from 11.3 cents to 13 cents, effective April 30, 1991, and an additional 1.7 cents, to 14.7 cents, effective January 1. This will push the rate to 16 cents and 17.7 cents with respect to leaded gasoline in January of this year. This, as I indicated in my response to the member for Ottawa East, is a total increase of 56.6% in gasoline tax since our government was in office. That's an unbelievable increase. Ontario's current unleaded gas rate is the third highest in Canada, ranking only behind the provinces of Quebec and Newfoundland. In January of last year, Ontario's unleaded gasoline rate was the highest in Canada.

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): That's terrible.

Mr Tilson: It is terrible.

I've indicated the effect I submit this increase in gasoline is having on some of our industries, specifically the tourism industry. We count on people from the United States and other provinces to visit our province and all the wonderful resources we have for people to spend their vacations on and entertainment on. If we took an example of someone who came north from the United States in his motor home, crossed the border, filled up his motor home with gasoline, purchased some alcohol, purchased some cigarettes, stayed at some of the hotels, stayed at some of the restaurants, I think the results are evident. They're turning back. They're not even coming because of the effect.

We clearly have a cross-border shopping problem. We clearly have that. People from Ontario are going to the United States to spend their vacations, and they're going there because the gas is cheaper. There are a number of other reasons, but one of the reasons they're going to the United States is because of the gasoline. They're certainly not coming here.

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): They are.

Mr Tilson: The Minister of Tourism and Recreation says that they are. The statistics from the various tourist agencies around this province are differing with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The fact of the matter is that tourism is down and he knows it. Tourism is down in this province. We count on these people to come.

I can mention my own riding of Dufferin-Peel. We don't have the areas of Niagara Falls and other, perhaps more remarkable tourist sites and nature sites. But in my riding we do have a number of events that people travel to, and it's down. Tourism is down in these areas. In Shelburne, Ontario, for example, there's the fiddle contest which occurs in the month of August. People travel from all over North America to visit that contest, and it's down.

Hon Mr North: It's excellent.

Mr Tilson: It is excellent. It's an excellent festival. But the difficulty is, when you put taxes up, Mr Minister of Tourism and Recreation, which the minister sitting next to you does, people are more reluctant to visit these events. The fact of the matter is, they're not. They're not, to be fair to the government, for a number of reasons, but I submit that one of the reasons is the cost of gasoline. It's costing more and more to travel in this province.

Fall fairs occur all over this province. In my riding we have a number of them, people travelling within the province, not just from outside the province. We count on those fairs to bring tourism and improve the economics in our own individual ridings. I mentioned the fall fairs. The Caledon fall fair, the Orangeville fall fair, the Shelburne fall fair: We can go on and on listing the various fall fairs, as I'm sure many of you, in your own ridings, have those fairs.

People go in our ridings to conservation areas. We have a conservation area where people go and picnic, they camp and they visit for day-long sessions. They're travelling less and less. One of the reasons they're travelling less and less is because of the cost of gasoline. So if the Minister of Tourism and Recreation gives the impression that everything is fine in the tourism industry, it's not, because people are travelling less and less. They're staying home.

How do you encourage people to get out there? You don't raise the cost of gasoline. You don't raise the cost of enabling people to go to different events, not only within our province, but people from outside the province, from other provinces—Quebec, Manitoba—and the United States to come to our great province. They're being discouraged as a result of some of your policies.

I guess one asks the question, "Why do you raise the cost of gasoline?" Why do you? What're you going to do with that money?

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): Why do you?

Mr Tilson: I'm looking forward to your response and I hope you do give that, because the difficulty is, normally when you raise the cost of gasoline, you think that you'd be doing something with respect to our transportation policy, our roads. The roads in this province are deplorable. I would like to know what percentage of the revenue you're receiving from this tax, this Bill 86, is going to go into the construction and redevelopment of our roads. I'll be looking forward to you standing in your place and giving comments as to what you're going to do with the revenue.

My guess is that your Treasurer told you, "We're going to have to have a gasoline tax because we need money to finance this province." He didn't take into consideration the effect on the agricultural industry, the effect on the tourism industry, the effect on cross-border shopping, the effect on investment, the effect on unemployment, the effect on the general economics of this province. You did so because your Treasurer told you to, because you needed money to finance this province.

I would hope, Madam Minister, that when you put forward a bill such as this you would give good reason for doing so; that you would tell us what you're going to do with the revenue you're going to be receiving from this tax. Is it going to be like their tire tax? Is that what you're going to do? Is it like the \$5 tire tax that goes into the general fund? Has that solved the environmental problem of what we're doing with our excess tires? I challenge you to tell us exactly what you intend to do with the revenue you're going to be receiving from this tax, which will be substantial. Somewhere I had an estimate of what it was going to be.

1610

The tax rate increases will raise an additional \$205 million in 1991. That's considering this bill hasn't even passed, and that's already been raised. I hope she will tell us whether that figure is accurate, because I hope she now knows how much it raised. A bill that hasn't even been passed is enforcing a tax, a total of \$410 million in the two-year period that this tax is being levied for. I don't know whether that's more or less, but that's the estimate that has been provided to me. I hope the minister will clarify that.

I hope the minister will tell us what she has done with the taxpayers' money. Where has it gone? Is it going into other things? Is it going into social services? There has to be a reason as to why you do these things. When you look at what it is doing to our economy and what it is doing to our various industries, it does give us grave concerns as to the rationale you're putting forward.

I had a meeting with the Ontario Restaurant Association. I believe they've been visiting all three caucuses. If they haven't, they will. They've given us figures that show what people are spending in Ontario and in the United States, specifically corporations which operate in both Canada and the United States. Red Lobster, for example, has shown tremendous increases in the United States, yet

in Canada there are decreases. Why is that? This is just an example of many restaurants and hotels in North America.

I'm sure they'll point their fingers at the federal government's GST and other policies, but there's no question that the gas tax is a relevant factor as to why people aren't travelling around as much in the tourism industry. Common sense tells us that. You'd better have a good reason to cause the tourism industry and other such industries to decline when you make those financial decisions.

They also gave us other information which came from Tourism Canada. I'm sure the Minister of Tourism and Recreation has this same information. They talked about tourist expenditures in Canada. Some 45% of the expenditures of tourism in Canada goes to transportation. I don't know what it is in this province, but I would suspect it's that amount, if not more. When you realize what tourism counts on to develop the industry, you tax it. Is that the way to solve it—to tax it, to discourage people from travelling around and seeing the sights of this wonderful province? Is that what you do? Surely not. Surely there are other ways of raising money. If you are going to raise money in that fashion, I would hope, Madam Minister, you would give very good reasons as to why you're going to do that.

What do you do now to solve the tourism industry? You're saying there's a problem in the tourist industry. Now you're going to get into gambling casinos. The Minister of Tourism and Recreation stood in his place and talked about how he's going to solve the tourist industry by bringing gambling casinos to Ontario. That's how he's going to solve it. On the one hand he taxes people from other countries and other provinces who are travelling around this province by taxing gas, yet he brings forward some cockamamy story, saying he's going to bring gambling casinos to improve the tourist industry. Operating this province on games of chance: that's how the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and the Minister of Revenue intend to do things in this province. That's not the way to improve the tourist industry, Mr Minister. You're seatmates together. I hope you will whisper in her ear and tell her specifically that this is a bad tax; it's a bad move.

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): It's already been moved.

Mr Tilson: That's the joke of it all. You delay, you delay, you delay, and now we're debating a year later a tax that was introduced last year. How preposterous. I would've thought you would have seen what this tax has done to this industry, and if you haven't, that you would look at it. You have now had an opportunity; a year has gone by. What effect has this tax had on these various industries I have listed? Has it had any effects? Has it been a benefit? What has it done, and what have you done with our money?

The answer, of course, as I say, is that you're going to solve the problem you created by your tax and you're going to bring in gambling casinos to improve the tourist industry. This House has been assured by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations that we're going to have legislation to deal with gambling casinos and at that

time, hopefully, this whole area will be revisited. The Minister of Tourism and Recreation will stand in his place and the Minister of Revenue will stand in her place and we'll talk about this some more. We'll have an opportunity to talk about what this tax has done to tourism in this province.

There have been all kinds of studies done and reports made from the tourist industry and the tourist associations around this province that have talked about what this tax is doing in our province. It's creating grave concerns as to the resorts, the hotels, the restaurants. People simply aren't coming; restaurants are empty, hotels are empty. People are not spending their summer vacations in northern Ontario. People can't afford to drive there.

To be fair, there's no question there are other reasons, but you have to look at this as a component part of the reason they're not going there. They're not going there because of the high cost of transportation; 45% of the expenditures of the tourist industry is because of transportation.

We get into other areas. People—

Hon Mr North: This isn't reality.

Mr Tilson: To the member who says this isn't reality, I suggest you start looking at what you've done. The reality of it is that you've caused a problem.

Now I'm going to get into another area because it's clear that the subject of tourism has created grave concerns, and I'm glad the Minister of Tourism and Recreation is here. I hope he stands in his place to say how this gas increase is not going to affect the tourist industry. I'll be looking forward to his comments. He's doing lots of heckling over there and I'll be looking forward to his standing in his place and justifying this tax and saying to us that this tax does not affect the tourist industry. I can't believe you can do that.

Hon Mr North: I didn't say that; you did.

Mr Tilson: That's right. I did say that, Mr Speaker, through you to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I want him to stand in his place and to justify why this bill is being passed at all when he knows it's creating grave concerns and problems in the tourism industry.

Many of us in this province, many of our constituents, many of the people in this chamber commute to work. That is a fact of life. We're moving ministries all around this province. We're trying to encourage people to be more mobile, to get everything out of the Toronto area, to create jobs in other areas, but the fact of the matter is that many of us and many of our constituents commute to work and spend, as a matter of travelling on the roads, as much as half an hour to an hour or more, in some cases two hours.

One of the concerns, of course, is the quality of the roads. I mentioned the fact that I doubt very much whether the almost \$500,000 that's being raised by this tax is going to go towards the construction and the redevelopment of our roads. I doubt that very much. I'll be looking forward to your statistics that say it is, but I doubt very much whether that's the case.

But we count on our roads. We need to spend a great deal of money to develop our roads and to improve our roads to enable our constituents to travel from where

they're living to their place of employment, because that's the fact of life. That's not being done. So where is the money going? Who knows where it's going? It certainly isn't going into roads.

Now we do get into other areas. The Minister of the Environment made an announcement the other day, which I found very interesting as to why she made it and not the Minister of Transportation, but she announced the extension of the Burlington to Hamilton GO train service. Actually I apologize. That was announced by the member from Hamilton on behalf of the Minister of the Environment. The whole subject of GO obviously surfaces in this government, presumably because people are having trouble with transportation.

1620

It has become more and more expensive to travel to and from work. Gasoline goes up. I tell you, with the 56% increase that's developed since the early 1980s, people are having trouble. We're keeping wages down, but we add to these expenses. Every dollar counts when they're forced to live—we all can't live in Toronto or Mississauga or other areas where there are larger cities; we all can't afford to live there. Most of us have to commute. When you make it expensive for us to commute, it affects the overall economy, with the money we're actually putting in our pockets.

As a result of this budget, we're going to now be working six months of the year before we can put any of the money that we're making in our own pockets—six months. We're now into July before we start putting money in our pockets as a result of this last budget, and this tax adds to that.

The Minister of the Environment, of course, is encouraging the subject of the environment when she announces these GO extensions. I can say that in my riding of Dufferin-Peel people are finding it more and more difficult to commute to work for a number of reasons: (1) our roads are deteriorating; (2) it's becoming more and more costly to travel.

There's no GO service in my riding. There's GO service all around my riding but not in my riding of Dufferin-Peel. For some unearthly reason, the Minister of Transportation refuses to provide a GO service to our riding, so people are forced to travel by automobile and they're forced to pay this dreaded tax. What are they going to do? Why can't you treat everyone the same? I suppose you say: "I'm going to tax them. I'm going to tax the heck out of them. That's how I'll treat them the same." But if you're going to tax them, you've got to provide transportation and you're not providing transportation. I don't mean to be pointing to you, Minister of Revenue. I should be pointing to the Minister of Transportation because the fact of the matter is that transportation in this province is unequal. My riding has none of that service—none. Yet they're paying this dreaded gas tax.

Constituents from all over my riding travel great distances to work. My riding consists of a basically urban-rural type of community. There's agriculture in my riding and there are other small industries, but basically the large percentage of my riding commute to Toronto and Mississauga and areas such as that.

For example, the statistics I've received from the town of Caledon are that approximately 45% of the town's labour force is employed outside of the municipality. They have to go to work outside of the municipality. They have to pay this tax because there's no GO service. There's no adequate commuter service, so they have to pay this tax. Why are people in my riding being treated differently from people in Toronto, who can take other means of transportation or who have GO services in other communities? They can take those services, but they have to pay this tax. They're being forced to pay this tax. Why is that? It's most unfair of the government to take that position.

It is estimated that approximately—these are last year's figures and my guess is they have changed; they're estimates, but they've been given to me by the municipality of the town of Caledon—6,700 vehicles commute from Caledon to other destinations within the GTA for employment purposes. That's not considering entertainment. People travel to the urban centres for entertainment—to see a Blue Jays game, theatre—and it causes them great concern by paying this tax. Everything goes up as a result of this tax, so no wonder the tourism industry and the entertainment industry are complaining about this tax and other such taxes.

Concluding on that point, I estimate that people live in my riding—many of them live in my riding for a number of reasons, but one of them is that the cost of housing is less. They are forced to because of the high cost of housing in the larger urban areas. When they do that, come up to my riding, they find they're commuting, and all of a sudden the Minister of Revenue and her government slaps on this tax. Many complaints come from my riding, and I imagine many ridings in your own caucus, from people who do not live in the cities and are forced to commute. The commuter is not pleased with what you are doing, Madam Minister.

Agriculture counts on fuel. They have to have fuel to transport feed, to transport vehicles, to transport animals, just to run the general agricultural operation. The cost of fuel, which you have put up, is causing them concern. Very little is being done for the farmer in this province. There's been some mention of it in the budget, which has been scoffed at by members of the agricultural community, but people all across this province in the agricultural community are concerned about this tax, a tax that is being levied when the bill hasn't even been passed. They're most concerned. I hope the minister will respond and justify why she is taxing the agricultural community with this tax. The subject of running a farm indeed has increased as a result of this tax.

I would like to list some of the fuel tax facts, just to illustrate why I hope members of this House will not support this tax.

Ontarians pay two to three times more for fuel tax than most Americans. The difference between what Americans and Ontarians pay in 1992 is rather startling. Ontario, for unleaded gas per litre, pays 14.3 cents with respect to tax. For diesel fuel it's 14.7 cents, and that gets into a whole other area. We saw last year the demonstrations around Queen's Park of truckers concerned about the trucking in-

dustry and how they're having a great deal of difficulty competing with the truckers in the United States. Admittedly, there are a number of reasons for those competing facts, but one of them is the cost of gasoline.

I repeat, in Ontario it's 14.3 cents for unleaded gasoline and 14.7 cents for diesel fuel. In Michigan the cost of unleaded gasoline is 4.6 cents compared to 14.3 cents in Ontario, and it's the same for diesel fuel. No wonder the truckers are upset and continue to be upset. How can they compete? More and more truckers are going out of business, for a number of reasons, and certainly one of the reasons is the gasoline tax. In New York they pay 14.9 cents for unleaded gasoline and 5.8 cents for diesel fuel. In Pennsylvania it's 5.3 cents for unleaded and 5.3 cents for diesel. In Ohio it's 6.1 cents, and 6.1 cents for diesel.

These figures of course are in Canadian dollars, as of January 1, 1992, and are given on the assumption that there have been no changes in the United States sources. But they're a long way from the cost of gasoline in Ontario. No wonder that the truckers, and other people in the transportation industry who rely on transporting our goods and other matters back and forth across our border and within our province, are complaining as to how they are going to compete; no wonder.

1630

As a result of this government's first budget—what irony that we haven't even got to debating the second budget, that here we are debating the first budget—Bill 86 represents a 31% increase in tax on unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel and a 24% increase for leaded gasoline when our rate of inflation is what? When our wages are going up—are they going up 31%? Are they going up 24%? They're not even close to that.

That's what this tax is doing. It's not fair. It hasn't been thought out. The Treasurer simply says: "We need more money. Therefore, we'll hit the gasoline tax, that's what we'll do."

One of the major points I wish to make in my presentation this afternoon is that there's no question that the amount of subsidization motorists and the transportation industry of this province are putting towards this government is astounding. The budget that was given—I'm speaking of last year's budget—and spending estimates show that the province expects to collect \$2.8 billion from road users this year while they only expect to spend \$1.9 billion on road and highway maintenance and expansion.

Where's the rest of the money going? Why are they collecting so much money from people who use the roads when the people who use the roads count on them to be in proper condition? They count on them to exist. They count on them to be properly constructed. Why are we doing that? Is there no other way we can raise money without penalizing people outside the cities who use the roads?

Those figures mean motorists are subsidizing the government by about \$900 million. That's not fair for people who count on using automobiles and our roads, not only for work but for entertainment and pleasure. It's not fair. The third-highest fuel tax rate in North America now exists in the province of Ontario. You ought to be proud: the third-highest fuel tax rate in North America.

As of January 1, 1992, Ontarians will be paying the highest taxes on unleaded fuel in North America and the third-highest in diesel fuel tax rates. No wonder people in the tourism industry, the trucking industry and people who count on transportation are complaining. Those jobs are going out, they're moving to the United States, because the costs of operating, labour, transportation and taxes aren't as high as they are in this province. Why are you adding to the problem?

I have indicated clearly that truckers can't afford the increases. Statistics show that, on the average, truckers will be shelling out an additional \$2,000 a year per truck in diesel fuel tax. No wonder the truckers are upset. For many carriers, fuel costs make up as much as 30% of their operating costs, yet we're taxing them to death, we're taxing them out of existence.

We need our truckers. Why tax them? Why force them out of business? Why force them into bankruptcy? You know perfectly well that 30% of their operating costs—and that's just the operating costs—is fuel. Why would you tax them? This is clearly a cost that's being put forward by Bill 86 that the people in the trucking industry can't afford.

Truckers have demonstrated, they've made presentations, I'm sure, to the various ministries, and they're not pleased with the conduct of this government and the economic policies of this government.

As an example, I have a brief quote from the *Hamilton Spectator* last year which talked about the family life of the trucker, how he has to work harder, how he has to spend more time away from home. That's another factor: They have to work harder to make money to pay this tax. They have to work longer hours because their operating expenses have increased—most unfair.

This is a quote from an individual by the name of Bob Janzen in the *Hamilton Spectator* in May of last year: Unless the government takes steps, "Mr Janzen and other Ontario truck drivers fear the Canadian trucking industry will end up like the bugs that decorate the front of their rigs after a long haul—flattened by deregulation, taxes and American competition." Of course there are other reasons the truckers are upset: deregulation is certainly something, and there's the American competition, the labour costs, but there are taxes. Why is this government continuing to penalize the trucker?

Mr Janzen says, "I'm working harder today than I was 20 years ago," and "I'm away from home more than ever." His family life is deteriorating. "The trouble is, he's making less money than ever, while his costs have skyrocketed." One of those costs is the cost of taxes to his vehicle.

The *Hamilton Spectator* did spend a great deal of time, as did other newspapers around this province last year, with the trucking industry and the emphasis on the cost of taxes and comparing the difficulties they're having in competing with the Americans. Again I quote from the *Hamilton Spectator* last year: "Everyone—industry, government and labour—agrees the US truck companies have lower costs and can easily outbid Canadian competitors.

The advantage comes mainly from lower taxes, cheaper equipment and labour costs.

"As a result, many Canadian companies have shifted all or part of their operations to a US base."

One of the reasons Canadian industries are moving to the United States is this bill. It's not the reason, but it's one of the reasons they're moving to the United States. In this article, Raymond Cope, president of the Ontario Trucking Association, estimated that these moves account for half the 5,000 jobs lost. That is something I hope the Minister of Revenue will comment on when she responds in this debate.

We need some encouragement in this province. We need some encouragement to lift up the economy. We shouldn't be taxing them; we should be encouraging the trucking industry, we should be encouraging those in the tourist industry. The Minister of Tourism and Recreation is still here. I challenge him to rise and say how he's doing that to combat this problem. What are the signs of encouragement? How is the government going to encourage the trucking industry, the tourist industry? They said gambling casinos; that's one of the things they're going to do. But you don't do it by levying taxes.

The *Toronto Star* commented last year as well that in 1990, 556 of Canada's 6,000 or so trucking companies closed for good, an increase of 74% from 1989. I appreciate that the sole cause of that wasn't this bill.

Interjection: What was the cause?

1640

Mr Tilson: Well, it was one of the reasons. Look at the statistics. Talk to the people in the trucking industry as to why they have gone under, why they've left this province. One of the reasons is the cost of fuel. The Americans can operate their businesses a lot more reasonably than the Ontarians can. Why? Because of taxes being higher in this province than in the United States.

In Ontario, where trucking employed about 200,000 people at its peak, 146 carriers went bankrupt in 1990, compared with 57 in 1989. The industry lost about \$16.6 million before taxes. Truck driving positions and related jobs have continued to evaporate at an alarming pace. The exodus of work has become even more infuriating for truckers when they see where the jobs are going: to the US border states.

So this bill has an effect that I don't think the Minister of Revenue ever dreamed it would, if she ever did even think it out. I believe she introduced the bill because the Treasurer told her to. I don't believe she sat down with the Treasurer and told him: "If you put this bill forward, this is what it's going to cost. It is going to cause a great deal of difficulty to the overall economy of this province. It's going to add to many of the problems."

The subject of the 1991 budget, which this bill has stemmed from, has already caused great economic concern to the people of this province. The deficit, according to the Treasurer, has gone up to \$10 billion. My guess is that when we start looking at the books, when we start looking at the fancy bookkeeping, it will be closer to \$13 billion or \$14 billion, so that the whole problem has escalated since

last year. Part of the reason is because industry has failed; the businesses have failed; people have lost jobs.

There's the Treasurer's own admission: Less revenue is coming in. Why is less revenue coming in? Because people in the trucking industry, the tourism industry, the agricultural industry and all the industries that use the roads in our transportation systems are having great difficulties. It is one part of a serious problem that this province has found itself in.

Why are you making it more difficult for people to operate in this province? Why would you do such a thing? Is there no other way of raising taxes? Yes, there is: You can cut back. You don't keep adding and adding. We've got too much government in this province. We've got too much government in this country.

It gives us all grave concern when we see the programs that are being added, programs that we can't afford. One of the ways of paying for those programs is taxes, and we've seen the effect of what you are doing. You are killing the middle class with your 1992 budget.

You've probably taxed the transportation industry as much as you can. I hope you have. I hope there are no more taxes with respect to the transportation industry. In fact, I hope you will start to think of ways to solve this problem you've created through your taxes in Bill 86.

The government, in its 1991-92 budget, indicated it would be spending \$52.76 billion. That's up 13.4%. Revenue, when this budget was being put forward, was expected to drop, so we knew there was going to be a deficit coming. Who are you trying to kid? We've seen what deficits have occurred in the 1970s federally. We are paying for that dearly now through the debt that's been created in this country, and you're doing the same thing in this province.

You blamed the Liberals; you talked about how dastardly the Liberals were with respect to their funny bookkeeping that occurred around the last election. They're angels compared to your conduct.

How realistic is it for the government to expect its revenues to fall only 1% when the government has lost about 250,000 jobs and bankruptcies are running at an all-time high? Jobs are being lost, the overall economy is shrinking and yet you continue to tax with such bills as this gasoline tax bill.

I don't know what to say. I don't know how to persuade you. You've got the votes. You've been charging the people of this province the tax increases, which occurred last year and again on January 1. They're already paying for it.

I hope some of the ministers—I've named some of them: the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and the Minister of Revenue—will speak to this bill and how it has affected their own industries.

To many people in my riding, the commuters and the people who count on the tourism industry, the worst tax is this gasoline tax. It's the two-stage increase, which we're already paying for, of 3.4 cents a litre. That's 15.5 cents a gallon, the provincial gasoline tax, which is, as I have indicated, already higher than in any US state.

I wish to conclude my remarks by simply hoping that the government—I mean, they may say they've gone too far. They may say: "It's already been paid for. We can't take it back. We've charged them in 1991 and we're charging them in 1992. It's too bad. Even though the bill hasn't been passed, they're already paying for it, so we can't give it back." But I look forward to hearing the comments from the various ministers as to how you're going to rectify the very serious problems you have caused as a result of this tax, Bill 86.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

Mr Stockwell: I think the member's comments were both enlightening and insightful. It's of interest, having seen the comments both here and downstairs in my office, that some of the issues we've addressed over the last number of years have not been addressed. The issues we are debating again today regarding this piece of legislation are as large a problem as they were a few years ago when the members opposite were in opposition.

How they've addressed the issue and how they've attacked the problem is very significantly different, once again, from the way they suggested they would. We often hear the comment, "That was then and this is now." It gives you pause to reflect on some of the comments made by members by the government and how diametrically opposed they are to what they're purporting to carry out in government.

It's both interesting and informative. I think the member deserves a pat on the back and applause for offering these insights for his constituents in his riding.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments? The member for Dufferin-Peel, you have two minutes to reply.

Mr Tilson: The summary of my message today is that we have too much government. We've got too many taxes. We're taxed to death on everything from gasoline to personal income tax. The next thing we're going to hear—it was hinted at in rumours leading up to the current budget—is that we're going to have a form of GST. That was suggested, a GST on certain services now that we've created this deficit.

We've got a deficit, we're taxed to death on everything, on food, on gasoline. People are going crazy. No wonder you're hated so much, no wonder the federal Tories are hated so much, no wonder the municipalities are hated so much, because we're taxed to death. Somewhere along the line the taxing has got to stop, and I would suggest that one of the things you can start doing is to start withdrawing your services.

1650

People don't want the services you're offering. You're putting all these services forward but you can't pay for them, so you implement this tax, and you have no idea the effect this tax is going to have on this province. You have no idea the effect it's going to have. You're just taxing for the sake of taxing because you need money. You need funds to operate programs the people don't want. The bureaucracy's increasing. How are you going to pay for it?

One of the ways is this tax. Who knows what you're going to think up next? The people have had enough.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Hon Mr Philip: This has been a fairly long debate on this bill. It received first reading on April 29, 1991, and there were some comments at that time. There was second reading debate on December 4, 1991, in which there was debate for one hour and 21 minutes. There was further debate on December 11, 1991, for six hours and 10 minutes. There was further debate on December 12, 1991, for nine hours and 40 minutes. There was second reading on December 16, 1991.

The Deputy Speaker: Debate is on the third reading.

Hon Mr Philip: Yes, Mr Speaker, I'm getting to the third reading. I want to give a history of how we've arrived at this third reading, though, if I may. On December 19 it went to committee of the whole for debate, and May 5 we spent one hour and 30 minutes. The total time spent on this bill, a bill that relates to a previous budget, in fact was over roughly about 20 hours. Considering the very urgent business this House has to deal with on a number of matters, I therefore move that the question be now put.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I feel that there hasn't been sufficient debate on this third reading; therefore, the debate will continue.

Hon Mr Philip: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: We have had over 20 hours of debate on this bill. It is a bill that is not even dealing with this budget that we have introduced and I would ask that you reconsider your decision.

The Deputy Speaker: The ruling has been made and the debate, therefore, shall continue.

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm not trying to provoke you or members of the House, but the question has been put very clearly by the member and I am asking if you can direct me to the proper place in the rules which say that we should continue this debate. My understanding is that we should proceed with the vote.

The Deputy Speaker: I would just like to remind the House that it's not necessary for the Speaker to give a reason. I've ruled on it. But for the benefit of the House let me read standing order 45:

"A motion for closure, which may be moved without notice, until it is decided shall preclude all amendment of the main question, and shall be in the following words:—'That this question be now put.' Unless it appears to the Speaker that such motion is an abuse of the standing orders of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. If a motion for closure is resolved in the affirmative, the original question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate."

I have ruled that the debate shall continue. Minister, you still have the floor.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, I have the floor and I move that the question be now put.

The Deputy Speaker: That question has now been decided. You cannot challenge the Chair. If you have any further discussions on third reading of the bill I will allow you to do so.

1700

Hon Mr Philip: I am not challenging the Chair. I have a right, since I have the floor, to put the question. I am now putting the question.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The decision has been made, and if you don't want to continue to debate third reading, I will continue in rotation.

Hon Miss Martel: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I have read the section very carefully and I understand that you have the prerogative to rule that the debate should continue if you believe there is an abuse in terms of the question being put or if there appears to be some kind of infringement of the rights of the minority. I am asking, Mr Speaker, if that is the case and if indeed that is the reason why you will not allow—

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. For the moment I feel there wasn't sufficient debate. Nothing prevents me later on from reconsidering. My decision at this time is that debate will continue. I ask the minister: Do you wish to continue debating the third reading? If not, I will continue in rotation.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, I find it unusual that you would give a ruling without giving the reasons you feel I have moved the motion prematurely. I ask you, Mr Speaker, if you would kindly share with the House the reasons for your—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is quite easy to understand and the procedures are very clear. Minister, I am speaking to you. It is very clear that the Chair has made a decision and I would ask you not to challenge the Chair.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, I will speak on the bill, although I find your ruling somewhat unusual. Having been in the Chair a number of times myself, it would certainly not be a ruling I would have made, or indeed that anybody I know of who would have been in that position would have made.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Minister, you have the floor.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Speak to the bill or sit down and shut—Mr Speaker, I would be pleased to withdraw that remark, and I don't need any smart-ass remarks.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I would please ask for your cooperation, the member for Oakville South.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I ask for your cooperation. Minister?

Hon Mr Philip: On this bill, I would like to point out to—

Interjections.

Hon Mr Philip: I am sorry, Mr Speaker, I can't speak over the noise of the opposition.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Let's make sure we continue the debate. The decision has been made; a ruling has been made. Minister, you have the floor and I would ask the rest of the House to refrain from heckling. The member for Etobicoke West—please.

Hon Mr Philip: I would like to talk about some of the things that were done last year, since that's what this debate seems to be all about. The anti-recession capital program of my ministry, for example, had a commitment of some \$700 million for short-term projects during 1991-92. It had—

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: After the display by the minister, he is now not debating the bill at hand.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Minister, you have the floor.

Hon Mr Philip: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It was a good ruling in this case.

The manufacturing recovery program, for example, which a number of the members' constituents have taken part in, has had a \$30 million commitment toward the recovery of companies that were affected by the recession, a recession largely effected by the very actions of the federal Conservative government in Ottawa.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Philip: A recession that was largely brought about, as manufacturers will tell you, by the very fact that the federal government introduced the free trade program without any kind of consideration or consultation with the companies of Ontario.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Philip: The honourable members of the Conservative Party so believe in the democratic process that they don't want me to speak and to tell the public the truth.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Minister, you have the floor. Make sure that you address your remarks on the third reading of the bill.

Hon Mr Philip: On third reading I want to put the bill in the same context that the members of the opposition have put it in, and that is, where does it fit into the economic scheme of things in this province? Indeed, if we look at what has happened under previous governments, such as the Conservative government that had the—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: This House will recess for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1707.

1718

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, you have the floor.

Hon Mr Philip: The members particularly of the Conservative Party who wanted to drown me out and didn't want me to speak asked me to speak directly to the consequence of the bill. They spoke to the consequences of the bill as they saw it and they painted the doom and gloom and said that Ontario was having an economic crisis as a result of this bill. Let's look at the facts.

In 1991 the Ontario gross domestic product per person was higher than any other province and the second highest of the G-7 nations. That was under our government, and I ask them to compare that to any government in Canada that was run by any Conservative or Liberal government in this country.

In the doom and gloom of the Conservative Party, which is so far to the right now that it is falling to the right of the Reform Party of Canada, they want to tell us that businesses are leaving Ontario. The fact is of course that there is more investment in Ontario than in any other province and indeed there is more foreign investment in Ontario than all the other provinces combined. The member for Mississauga West, my good friend Mr Mahoney, recognizes that, because—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Throw him out.

The Deputy Speaker: I ask that you give me your full cooperation.

Mr Mahoney: Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: Just on a point of order: The minister, in trying to add some credence to his argument, mentioned me by name as well as riding. If he wants to add credence to his argument, I wish he'd try to do it from his own perspective and leave me out of it.

Hon Mr Philip: He always liked me to introduce him before. Certainly when I open up plant after plant in Mississauga, in Mississauga West, he's the very member who likes me to introduce him from the stage. I don't know why he wants me not to introduce him from the House. Hazel McCallion, that great mayor of Mississauga and that friend of the honourable member from Mississauga—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. It's your time.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): Can we use the word "goof"?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Please take your chair. Minister, you have the floor.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: I would just remind the House that there are rules in the Legislature about heckling not from your chair and remind the member for Essex South that he is heckling from outside his usual spot.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, in the very—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Please take your chair.

Mr Mancini: I have a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. When the Speaker stands up, members remain seated. The member for Essex South.

Mr Mancini: I was unable to take my own seat because the NDP member for Oxford was sitting in my seat. We welcome him over here, but he can't have my seat.

Hon Mr Philip: I understand why the member's incensed. He heard the false rumour that Brylcreem was going out of business. It's not true. I can assure him that everything will be okay.

Those people want to paint a gloomy picture of Ontario. Those people fail to recognize that exports from Ontario at this time are 30% of the gross domestic product and higher than in all the other G-7 nations. Ontario's GDP is forecasted by every respected group, be it American or the Conference Board of Canada, to be growing faster than any other province's, and indeed faster than in all the G-7 nations in the next three years. Those are the facts that the opposition, with their gloom and doom as they try to scare business from this province or scare it about what this government is doing—they don't like to tell those facts, but around the world we're telling that to business. That's why there are more businesses investing here than in any other province.

If we look at what the previous governments have not done, we see why this government has had to act in so many ways. Ontario investments in machinery equipment have been lower since 1974 than in any of the G-7 nations. You ask why we are not competitive compared to Italy, Germany, Sweden, Denmark—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Let me remind the minister what the debate is all about: Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act.

Hon Mr Philip: What I am trying to put into context is that the opposition has been trying to paint the picture that somehow this piece of legislation has caused grave economic problems to this province. In fact, if you listened to the previous speakers, you would know that was what they were speaking about. I didn't notice you call them to order for what they were saying, and therefore I think you would agree that I have a right to correct any misinformation which they may have conveyed to the public, and that is precisely what I am doing, Mr Speaker.

If we look at the context in which this bill is found, we see that at a time in which this government has been able to act, having inherited government at the base of a recession, the base of a recession in which we had to take over and manage the deficit left to us by the previous government, a recession that would have been certainly less had the previous government—or the previous governments, I should say—had any kind of industrial strategy that would

have looked at exactly what was happening to business in this province, we wouldn't have had these problems to such a great extent.

To blame this government for getting us into the present recession with one, two or three pieces of legislation is simply absurd. We have performed better than any other province in Canada. We are performing better and we have policies that are helping to get us out of a very, very difficult recession.

I listened to the Conservative members speak. They said the problem was that we had too many taxes—and I agree with that—and that is why our government has, at the present time, some 21 separate studies evaluating the programs of the government, that are saying to the government, "These are the kinds of ways in which we can evaluate value for money," which those members who have shared my concerns long enough as members of the public accounts committee know is very dear to my heart and to my interest—21 separate studies.

In the present budget we have been able to save, through our efficiencies, some \$3 billion; \$3 billion we've been able to cut out of programs as a way of saving the taxpayers some money.

The Conservatives love to talk about how terrible the present recession is under the NDP government. Well, we've shown that we have been outperforming every other province. But let's talk about the last recession in 1981. In 1980-81, in fact there were an equal number of companies going into receivership and bankruptcies as there were last year in the province of Ontario.

When one examines how the economy has expanded in the last 10 years by natural growth, one has to say that businesses performing under this government last year were actually outperforming, doing better if you like, than under the 1980-81 government of Premier Bill Davis.

I know the Conservative Party in this House don't like to remember Bill Davis because he was far too progressive for them. He introduced policies. I've met with him. I've met with Phil Gillies who served in that government. I've met with Susan Fish who was part of that government. They have nothing to do with these rascals because they don't want to be associated with them. They say, "We were a Progressive Conservative government; we were a Progressive Conservative Party at that time." Compared to the lot we have in this House, Brian Mulroney is a democratic socialist, so I wouldn't expect them to agree.

1730

The point I am making is that even under the Progressive Conservative Party of 1980-81, there were actually an equivalent number of bankruptcies as there were under the very hard times that we took over as the government. I am very proud that as a government we have met the challenge and we are moving in with some progressive policies which are assisting business. This year my budget, which actually serves the business community, is up some 93% compared to an equal year under the last year of the Liberals. Those are the kinds of programs we are developing.

We are developing programs that are working with business. We are developing programs that are so progressive

compared to the reactionary policies of the Liberals and even some of the Progressive Conservative policies under the Davis government, that of course I agreed with.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, the member for Essex South.

Hon Mr Philip: The Liberals don't like to hear the facts, but the facts are that we are moving ahead with a number of programs that are actually not just dealing with the present economic problems we inherited from them and their predecessors, but rather with some of the very structural problems they never addressed whatsoever.

The \$1.5-million sector partnership fund is a good example of how this government has been able to move with the times to help business join together and create new innovations, new partnerships in this province.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve): Order. I want to remind all members that we are on third reading for Bill 86. The honourable minister has the floor and I would ask him to please limit his remarks to Bill 86. We can then proceed, and address your remarks to the Chair.

Hon Mr Philip: The honourable members of the Liberal Party and Conservative Party are saying that somehow this bill of course has nothing to do with the present economic conditions; it relates to a previous budget. They want to spend over 20 hours discussing that, but that's fine.

The fact is that if you look at what we are doing, Mr Speaker, we have been able to have the lowest percentage increase in government spending of any government—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. We are dealing with Bill 86. It has to do with the previous budget. It has to do with tax increases in gasoline. Please, your remarks on Bill 86, and interjections are out of order.

Mr Bisson: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It has always been the convention in this House on debates on taxation bills, and I would ask for your interpretation, that the latitude is somewhat wider because one taxation bill can't overlap the other.

The Acting Speaker: This is Bill 86, a specific bill, for the member for Cochrane South's edification. Bill 86 pertains to An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, period. That's what we're dealing with, third reading.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: There are a number of people in this House who are heckling and they're not in their own seats. I would ask you to take some action.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The Speaker is aware of this. Heckling is out of order, particularly when the member is not in his or her seat. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, of course I will abide by your ruling. I'm sure you will realize, though, having watched on television at the very least the comments of the previous speakers from the Liberal and indeed from the

Conservative Party, that they were talking about the relationship of one tax to other taxes and indeed to the total economy of the province of Ontario and they were talking about tax increases.

I'm pointing out that this government has actually decreased taxes. As a matter of fact, we've had tax decreases on manufacturing, resources, companies and small business. Those are the kinds of things which the opposition does not like to talk about because it spoils the doom-and-gloom image which it wants to paint of this province.

I give credit to the member for St Catharines, because he says, "Yes, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, you are working in my community and I'm pleased to be part of the economic renewal team that is making progress in that area." I guess not every member on that side of the House has the statesmanlike qualities of the member for St Catharines.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I'm sure many members are very statesmanlike and I'm sure they appreciate hearing it. However, we are on Bill 86 which pertains to, I will again emphasize, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act. It does not have to do with statesmanship or anything like that.

Hon Mr Philip: The Gasoline Tax Act deals with the whole area of the petroleum industry, and a very important part of that, which of course the member for Sarnia would want to be aware of, is the whole plastics industry. We, as a government, were able to sign a memorandum of understanding with the plastics industry that creates a partnership between business, labour and the industry so that we can go ahead. That's the kind of thing this government does.

I would love to talk about the plastics industry because we are making so many advances in that area and it is part of the petroleum industry, but if you want to look at the history of the gasoline tax rates, though, if you look at the increase of gasoline tax, maybe you start off with 1981. You have 4.6 cents on May 19; on May 20, 5.4 cents; on July 1, six cents, and on October 1, 6.3 cents. That was in one year, 1981. Who was in power then? Not the NDP government. It was too bad we weren't. If we had been, you wouldn't have had those kinds of increases.

Interjection: Who was it?

Hon Mr Philip: Who was it? I believe—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable minister, I realize, has got some political marks to make. However, he's being heckled by his own members, he's not addressing the Chair and he's creating a great deal of disturbance all around. Please, Bill 86.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, my colleagues in the New Democratic caucus and cabinet simply have a very good memory. They remember that there were more gasoline tax increases in 1981 under the Conservative government than under the NDP government last year and they don't like to remember that.

Let's take a look at 1982. Who was in power then? I believe it was the Conservatives who were in power at that time. What did we have? On January 1 we had 6.3 cents on regular leaded; April 1 we had 6.6 cents; July 1, 6.7 cents,

and October 1, a whopping 7.2 cents. That was in the middle of a recession. No wonder so many of the companies went downhill under the Conservative government of Bill Davis in comparison to what's happening here in Ontario now.

1740

Interjection: When did the Liberals come in?

Hon Mr Philip: When did the Liberals come in? 1985.

The Liberals weren't as bad. They came in in 1985, with a certain amount of help from my friends, as they say.

But we raised it 1.5 cents. This is what they are having a 20-hour debate on, a 1.5 in last year's budget. This is what the Liberals and the Conservatives want to have a 20-hour debate on.

Interjections.

Mr Turnbull: You don't even know the right number.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Heckling is definitely out of order. You will have a chance to participate in the debate if you so desire when your party's turn comes. At the present time, the honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology has the floor.

Hon Mr Philip: If you compare that 1.7-cent increase—

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I would just hope the member who is speaking at the present time would relay to us the difference between a litre and a gallon.

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order; it's a point of debate or a point of something.

Hon Mr Philip: I can tell the honourable member that the figures I used were litres. If he wants to check them out, we'll be happy to supply you with the figures. They were litres I was using, and I suggest that if he doesn't know the difference between the kind of price increases, the gouging that the Conservatives did at the very bottom of the 1980-81 recession, then he had better get his facts straight, because we have the facts straight. Those were litre figures that I was giving.

Let me talk about the Liberals. The Liberals can't be blamed as much as the Tories because they weren't increasing gasoline by such large numbers at the bottom of a recession the way the Tories were. None the less, in 1985 the Liberal government raised it by eight cents a litre. Now they want a major debate on 1.7 cents that was last year, not this year, because of course we didn't raise it this year.

The Liberals weren't content that they raised gasoline eight cents a litre in their first year. In their second year—and you might like to compare that, because this is our second year and we haven't raised it—they said, "Well, that was good last year, so let's give them another eight cents this year," and that's what they did. They wanted to be original, so they said: "We can't raise it eight cents, because eight cents was last year. So we'll raise it 8.3 cents this year. That makes it a little different." That's how original the Liberal government was.

Unfortunately, with the Liberals originality doesn't continue; one good idea isn't followed by another good idea. So while they were original in 1986 by raising it—

Mr Turnbull: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would ask that the minister would correct the record, because he is now misleading this House talking about taxes—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The language used by the honourable member is not parliamentary and I would respectfully ask the honourable member for York Mills to withdraw.

Mr Turnbull: I'm happy to withdraw it, Mr Speaker, and I would ask you for direction as to how I would phrase it in parliamentary language—

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology has the floor. Indeed if he has anything to correct in his own speech, he can do it. Otherwise, he can continue on Bill 86.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, 1986 was not a good year for the motorists, or for the trucking companies either in this province, because the Liberals, not being content with the eight cents in 1985, then had to go up to 8.3 cents in 1986. In 1987, 8.3 cents again is the figure.

In 1988 of course they had to do it not just once but twice: January, 8.3; April 21—can you guess, Mr Speaker? There are a number of new members in the House. Maybe we could have a lottery. I'm rather open to those things nowadays—would you believe 12.3 cents? So we have in 1988 8.3 and then April 21, 12.3.

In 1989, under the Liberals, again it was 12.3, but not just once. That was only in January. They had to bring us a Christmas present in January of 12.3. But then of course they had to have the summer or spring present, and the summer or spring present was on May 18.

What was May 18? It was on Mother's Day. That was Mother's Day. Give a gift to mother. You know what the Liberals' gift to mother was? I hope mother wasn't driving when she got the gift; she would've careened off the road. It was 13.3 cents. Happy Mother's Day from the Liberals. That's their idea of fairness. I can tell you that the trucking companies in this province have mothers and they didn't appreciate that kind of Mother's Day gift.

The point I am making is that those who would want to debate and filibuster this bill that relates to a very small increase last year, albeit a serious increase, one that we were concerned about, in comparison to the kinds of increases the Conservatives introduced at the bottom of the 1980-81 recession, in comparison to the kinds of increases the Liberals continued to impose on the trucking industry in this province and on the drivers of this province, is very, very small.

I will give the floor to them if they want to filibuster some more, but I can say to you, that kind of debate is not in the interests of the taxpayers of Ontario. I wanted to at least put it in the context in which it is.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I was hoping we would've dealt more specifically with the provisions of this bill in the last period of time—that the member

would've addressed those. I was quite surprised that we saw a closure motion, a guillotine motion, coming from a party which over the years has defended the rights of the Legislature to debate at some length the legislation that comes before the House.

In addition to that, I'd hoped we would've dealt with the issue of cross-border shopping. There have been tax increases by this government and other governments in certain periods of time. What we have seen very recently, however, that I'd hoped the member would've dealt with was the phenomenon of people having loss-leaders attract them to the other side of the border.

There were three taxes that used to be fairly easy to increase. One of those would have been the tobacco tax, the second would have been the alcohol tax, and the third the gasoline tax. They were considered to be somewhat, let's say, sin taxes in one way or another, or some might even characterize some as environmental taxes.

However, those of us who represent the Niagara Peninsula—and the member for Niagara Falls and the member for St Catharines-Brock and the member for Lincoln are all here—would recognize that there is a problem in that every time we increase that tax during a time when there's extreme competition just across the border and in the midst of a recession, we tend to promote people heading to the other side of the border to make those purchases.

I was hoping that the government might consider and that the minister was going to get up to suggest that the government would be withdrawing this tax measure so we could send a signal out there at this specific point in time that we wanted people to shop on this side of the border, that we would see them then, by shopping this side of the border, paying more taxes on this side of the border and we could help to address the many revenue problems that are confronting the government at this time.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further questions and/or comments.

1750

Mr Stockwell: This issue is very important. It's very important to the border communities. Every day the retailers in border communities are losing business that is crossing the border into the United States. They're losing business because of the high taxes on alcohol, because of the high taxes on cigarettes and because of the high taxes on gasoline. This issue is killing border communities—these kinds of tax hikes.

If the member wants to cast his mind back to 1971, which is ancient history, not one member of this party sitting opposite that he blames for the tax hikes in 1971 was here in this House, and in 1981 the vast majority of this party was certainly not here in this House to argue or defend those decisions.

If this minister wants to live in prehistoric ages and debate with the likes of Bill Davis and Larry Grossman, he may well do that, but we're talking about the taxpayers today. We're talking about the retail operators in border communities. They've spoken in unison. They've said, "No more gas hikes."

Last year this Treasurer increased taxes on gasoline, increased taxes on alcohol and increased taxes on cigarettes. He went back to the well again this year to increase taxes on beer. If you want to stand in this House and talk about the 1970s and 1980s, you can, but every day in the 1990s, Mr Minister, people cross the border to shop because of these taxes. Retailers close down and Ontarians are out of work.

Mr Bisson: I'd like to rise in support in regard to the debate that my colleague did. I think what he was saying was very important, that we have spent 20 hours debating a bill in regard to the budget of last year. There are a number of issues, as the minister pointed out, that are crucial to Ontario, such as cross-border shopping, such as what's happening with the economy and a number of other issues that are affecting the daily lives of the people of this province.

What the minister was saying, and I think it really has to be echoed, is that the members of the opposition, both the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, could stand here in this House and try to put down the government for a tax increase last year of 1.5 cents on gas, when we know that when the Conservatives were in power, there were four increases per year. One thing they had going for them, at least the increases were fairly small; they only doubled them over a period of three years. The Liberals did the same thing. They came to power and the minister made the point rather well, that they did less tax increases but they made a bigger whopping profit every time they did it.

The point is, we have business in this House to attend to. We're in the middle of the worst recession since the 1930s. The people of Ontario want this government and this Legislature to deal with the issues affecting the people of this province.

To have the opposition stall, deter and try to slow down every piece of legislation that we're putting through for their own political means is not appreciated on the part of the people of this province, because—a secret for the opposition—there was a democratic vote in 1990 and the New Democratic Party won the election. We have the right and we have the responsibility to govern this province over the next four years. The quicker the opposition can realize that, the quicker we can get to the business of this House and deal with the issues that affect the people of this province, day by day.

They will all have their turns. But for them to sit in this House and to call down this government over a 1.5-cent tax increase on gas, when they quadrupled it in a short period of time, I think is quite interesting on the part of the opposition to raise.

The Acting Speaker: One final participant.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Just about five years ago at this time, this Legislature introduced televised proceedings. This is very unfortunate for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who I think this afternoon, in the tone of his comments and the demeanour of the debate, advertised to thousands and thousands of people around Ontario the fact that they can have very little confidence in the minister, I say to you, Mr Speaker, in this

government who is responsible for taking the case of businesses all around Ontario into the counsels of the chamber and debating those counsels.

The fact that he could go on and on in the face of rulings by you about sticking to the bill, in the face of the fact that the entire province is just reeling under the weight of taxation right now, and for him to try to justify a closure motion in this House and to somehow suggest that the people are just dying out there to pay this additional tax and that somehow the opposition, based on past history, ought not to get in the way of this bill, in my view scandalizes not only the members of this House but the thousands and thousands of people who are watching.

He stood up here for well over an hour with the noise and the shouting and the screaming from his own members, making light of the fact that yet another tax burden is being put on the province. I don't know what brings this about. Perhaps it's the fact that the Premier is off in New York, trying to explain to New York bankers the economic situation of Ontario. If this is the way ministers conduct themselves while the Premier is out of town, we had better pass an order making sure the Premier never leaves town again.

The Acting Speaker: This completes questions and/or comments. The Minister for Industry, Trade and Technology has two minutes in reply.

Hon Mr Philip: I don't need a sermon from the member for York Centre, whose government raised taxes in this province 33 separate times. That's how much they cared.

I don't apologize for the fact that while he is talking doom and gloom about the economy of this province, we are selling this province, along with the business community. They are saying, "Why have the doom and gloom of the Liberals, who are trying to defame the province and the value of the industry in this province?" In fact, we have come in with a budget that gives the lowest increase in spending in some 40 years. Where were the Liberals when good times happened? Where were the Conservatives?

The member for Etobicoke West talks about the fact that there were not any of the members of his group in the House in 1981. I agree; there were Progressive Conservatives in this House then. That's something we don't have in this House right now.

Mr Turnbull: Keep talking. You are going to get more of us elected next time.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, I can tell you that the member for York Mills doesn't like to talk about the GST and what effect that has on border communities. He doesn't want to talk about that at all.

The member for St Catharines made some interesting comments, and he usually tends to be somewhat more statesmanlike than his colleagues.

The member for York Centre talked about cross-border shopping, the policies we have introduced to fight cross-border shopping. Here's what the cross-border communities say. Thunder Bay: "Most appreciative of the financial assistance of the province; opportunity for local groups to decide the best way to spend dollars with provincial guidelines; work well done." That's what Thunder Bay says, and that's what all of the cities are saying.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on third reading of Bill 86?

Mr Sorbara: I look forward to the opportunity of speaking on this very important bill. I might just begin by saying that I trust and hope that as we hear from other members of the government party, their defence of this measure will not be in the tone and of the quality of what we've just heard from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, or it will indeed take a very long time, I say to the Minister of Revenue, to get this bill through the House.

I just want to begin by reminding my colleagues of what it is we are debating. We are debating a 3.4-cents-per-litre increase on the purchase of gasoline in the province of Ontario. I remember when this measure was introduced in the budget of the Treasurer, just over a year ago now. It was a budget which was not, to tell you the truth, a great success for the minister.

I see that by my reckoning it is 6 of the clock, so I think the procedure is to adjourn the debate for the time being.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you to all honourable members. It is now 6 of the clock. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth
Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philp, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan, Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola, Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget, W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini, Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

CONTENTS

Wednesday 6 May 1992

Members' statements			
Ministry of the Attorney General spending	565	Retail store hours	571
Mr Chiarelli		Mrs McLeod	
National Mental Health Week	565	Mr Pilkey	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)		Mr Mancini	
Howard-Harwich-Moravian Public School	565	Public order	572
Mr Hayes		Mr Runciman	
Budget	565	Mr Pilkey	
Mr Eddy		Retail store hours	574
Planning	566	Mr Carr	
Mr Murdoch		Mr Pilkey	
Midwifery	566	Mr Tilson	
Mr Malkowski		Government assets	574
Eastern Ontario	566	Mr Phillips	
Mr O'Neil		Mr Laughren	
Mental health services	566	Public safety	575
Mrs Witmer		Mrs Witmer	
Jack Dykeman	567	Mr Pilkey	
Mrs MacKinnon		Assisted housing	575
Visitors		Mr Morrow	
Mr McClelland	567	Mr Charlton	
The Speaker	579	Retail store hours	576
		Mrs Caplan	
		Mr Laughren	
		Native hunting and fishing	576
		Mr McLean	
		Mr Hampton	
		Plant closure	577
		Ms Haeck	
		Mr Philip	
		Construction industry	578
		Ms Poole	
		Ms Gigantes	
		Criminal Injuries Compensation Board	578
		Mr Jordan	
		Mr Hampton	
		Members' comments	573
		Mr Runciman	
		Mr Drainville	
		Mr Perruzza	
		Mr Eves	
		Mr Jamison	
		Petitions	
		Municipal boundaries	
		Mr Murdoch	579
		Mr McLean	579
		Revenue from gaming	
		Mr Tilson	579
		Livestock requirements	
		Mr Villeneuve	579
		French-language services	
		Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	580
		Mr Murdoch	580
		Mr Jackson	580
		Reports by committees	
		Standing committee on government agencies	580
		Mr McLean	
		Deemed adopted	580
		Standing committee on regulations and private bills	580
		Mr White	
		Agreed to	581
		Third readings	
		Gasoline Tax Amendment Act, 1992, Bill 86	581
		Mr Chiarelli	581
		Mr Tilson	582
		Mr Ferguson	583
		Mr Stockwell	583
		Mr Philip	583
		Mr Bradley	594
		Mr Bisson	595
		Mr Sorbara	595
		Deemed adjourned	596
Statements by the ministry			
Social assistance	567		
Mrs Boyd			
Responses			
Social assistance			
Mr Beer	569		
Mr Jackson	569		
Oral questions			
Budget	570		
Mrs McLeod			
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Jeudi 7 mai 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

Index inquiries

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

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Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7410 ou 325-7411.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 7 May 1992

The House met at 1005.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA NÉGOCIATION COLLECTIVE ENTRE CONSEILS SCOLAIRES ET ENSEIGNANTS

Mr McGuinty moved second reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la négociation collective entre conseils scolaires et enseignants.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 94(c), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): I look forward to the debate I hope will begin this morning and take place over perhaps the coming years so that we can address a problem I feel is very real. I will consider it an accomplishment if I can convey to the members the seriousness and extent of the problem which faces our students and hence all of Ontario.

Let me first say that I intend to spend a significant amount of time this morning describing the problem and less time describing my proposed solution. In 1975 this Legislature passed the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act. The situation at the time was that there was no legislation governing negotiations between teachers and trustees, so that bargaining then was taking place in something of a vacuum, and the relationship between the trustees and the teachers was in a very bad way. The purpose of the legislation was to bring some order to this confusion and lay down some ground rules for collective bargaining.

Essentially, the legislation took great pains to address the concerns of trustees and teachers. Hence it gave them some very powerful bargaining tools, the traditional tools available in the collective negotiations sanctions; that is, the right to strike was given to the teachers and the right to lock teachers out was given to the boards. But effectively the right that was given was the right to bring classes to a halt in order to exert pressure on the other party. It's my feeling that although the legislation may have addressed the rights of teachers and boards, it really failed to adequately address the rights of students, particularly their right to attend school. I believe the act is deficient in three ways.

First, there is no limit at present on the length of time the parties can negotiate. Hence we have today's situations where we have settlements today that are retroactive to September 1991. So we have negotiations that have been going on for 16 months. I have spoken to a number of people who are more expert in these matters than I am, and they tell me that in these kinds of negotiations more time is

not better negotiating time. There's perhaps something to be said for the United Auto Workers approach, which says, "If we don't have a contract, we will not work." It's effectively a "high noon" provision. I'm not advocating that specifically, but I think there's something to be said for it.

The second thing the act does not do is place restrictions as to when a strike may occur. As a result, most of the strikes or lockouts take place in the spring; that is, February, March and April. The reason, of course, we do that is the same reason the National Hockey League went out on strike just before the playoffs: because you exert more pressure. In the case of students, obviously they're more sensitive to lost school time. That is a natural and realistic outcropping of the existing legislation.

Also, in terms of another limitation in the existing legislation, there's no fixed maximum duration for strikes or lockouts. The Education Relations Commission, a body created under the existing legislation, makes a determination as to when a school year is in jeopardy, and as a result there is some authority available to determine when a strike or a lockout has gone on for too long. But I want to recount to you some statistics, which I think you'll find interesting, that were supplied to me by the Education Relations Commission. I'm thankful to Mr Doug Saunders for his assistance in this regard. Although the raw data have been there, I'm not sure many people were aware that anybody had compiled it and put it all together.

1010

Since the academic year 1975-76 to 1991, but not including this year, there have been some 56 strikes. During those 56 strikes we have held out of class 789,675 students and we have held them out for a total of 1,331 days, which is about seven school years. On average, we evict our students out of class for 24 days every year, the longest strike being about 56 days. In terms of an important statistic, we evict 50,000—in fact, it's 49,354—students every year for a strike and we evict them for one calendar month; in fact, a little more than one calendar month.

The Education Relations Commission, of course, plays a role in all this, but what it has done is that it has made the determination that a student's year is in jeopardy only eight times. It has made this determination, on average, when they've been out of school for some 40 days, which works out to two calendar months. That's 40 school days. I think the important point is that under the existing legislation in Ontario, 50,000 students are evicted from class for over one month every year.

There have been lots of changes since 1975—that's the date the legislation came into place—and I'm sure I don't have to recount all of them. The Berlin wall has come down, the Russian republic is no more, the European Community has formed an economic union, Japan has displaced the US as the world's economic leader, we have an NDP government; significant changes have taken place.

But I think most importantly we have come under the ever-increasing influence of the outside world.

Our economy has got to be viewed as part of a larger global economy. Our competitors are now the world over, no longer in other provinces or merely in the US. We recognize that we've had a significant devaluation of our natural resources. We are no longer hewers of wood and drawers of water. We can't make it that way any more, and we truly understand that our greatest natural resource, as I say, is not under our feet: It's between our ears. Hence, we understand that our education system now has to be measured in terms of international standards and not merely by Canadian standards.

I want to quote something the Economic Council of Canada recently said about our education, in its report just released, I think, within the last month. In the matter of literacy and numeracy they tell us that "28% of those between 16 and 24 are below the everyday reading level and 44% failed to meet the requirements for functional numeracy." What they are saying is that 28% can't understand a comparatively simple newspaper article and 44% can't perform the calculations needed to add up a restaurant bill or a mail order form.

It goes on to say that in science and mathematics, in an international test of 14 industrialized countries, Canada placed significantly below average, and Ontario, out of all the provinces, in terms of science and math came last. It goes on to say that we are now covering only half of the math curriculum that we tested for in the early 1980s. I think it's fair to say we've got a problem.

Of course, in 1975 we didn't really address the issue of how we were competing against the Japanese and how we were competing against the Germans. That wasn't a major factor. As I say, times have changed, and now I think we have a responsibility to ensure that we reflect society's strengthened conviction of the importance of education, and I think this demands that we place limits on the amount of time our students can be forced out of school.

My bill does not extend the school year; it merely places limits on the number of days our students can be, as I say, evicted from the classroom, and I say they cannot be held out of school for longer than 20 school days. That's about the equivalent of a calendar month.

It also goes on to say that it places restrictions on what part of the school year we can hold them outside the class. My bill says that no strike or lockout can begin after October 31, again reflecting the fact that students are more sensitive to lost class time in the latter part of a year.

I also make the process governing the negotiations at the present time more settlement-directed, and I require that the fact-finder's recommendation, an impartial third party's recommendation, be voted upon by the union members—there's now no obligation that they do so—and I impose the same obligation on the trustees: There's now no obligation on them to vote on this, so I require them to vote.

To reflect the importance that society gives to educating our students, I say you only have to pass it by 40%. If 40% adopt the recommendation, then that will be deemed to be that party's position. I didn't come up with that number

out of thin air. I got that from Ohio, and I understand that is a provision that's in other American states.

I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on this matter and responding to some of them.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): We in this party would like to thank the member for Ottawa South for bringing this issue to the floor of the Legislature. It's an issue that is of great concern to parents and students, and I'm sure teachers and school boards across Ontario.

There have been many who have looked for solutions to the problems of teachers' strikes and work to rule. In the big picture, one should understand that Bill 100 is long overdue for review.

I should point out to the members of this assembly this morning that some of us did sit on a committee of this Legislature recently. The standing committee on public accounts did make its report within the last year, and one of the recommendations was taken very seriously and was under considerable debate. One understands that the majority of the members of this committee are government members. I'll read the recommendation:

"The current localized bargaining system for teachers shall be the subject of a Ministry of Education review. This process has raised concerns among trustees, administrators and the Ministry of Education."

This was a recommendation of the committee within the last year. I think it's the duty of this government to seriously consider that, given the environment we have been working under, especially in the last few months.

I believe my colleague Norm Sterling did bring some legislation before the House. It wasn't considered seriously by the government, but it would have stopped the strikes and the work to rule in Ottawa-Carleton. So there was an opportunity to move forward with that legislation within the last few weeks.

I would like to say that we've talked, as have I in my position as critic for our party, to the school boards and to the Board of Education for the City of London, and we have had some good advice on this particular piece of legislation, Bill 4.

With regard to the areas the member is trying to address, first of all, as we take a look at the student advocate, there are questions in our minds. Who will it be? How much will it cost? What background would this person have to have? With regard to the minimum contract term, where it is stated in the bill that the term cannot be less than two years, the boards are advising us they do need the flexibility to negotiate one-, two- or three-year contracts. So that is something we would have to consider.

The chairman of the Board of Education for the City of London believes teachers should be legislated back to work, and now the minister is saying he almost had to legislate the Ottawa teachers back to work, which is a very weak statement, I feel, on behalf of this government, given that the students are ending their school year right now and ought to be in class.

We witness here the Metropolitan Separate School Board, which has been out on strike, in my opinion—work to rule is a form of strike—since some time in February or March. Those young people have missed some of the most

important opportunities in education, that is, their extra-curricular activities, which are all part of the responsibilities of teachers and school boards in order to provide them with the kind of training and opportunities that were available to their parents and ought to be available in these times to them, probably more than ever.

The fact-finder recommendation: the report to be voted on on that issue. The explanatory notes state—and I speak to my colleague—that if at least two fifths of them vote in support of the terms of settlement recommended in the fact-finder's report, the report becomes binding on the teachers for the purpose of making or renewing a collective agreement. On both sides, whether we're talking about the interests of the teachers or the school boards—which of course should be common but aren't always during these processes—I would have to say that one would be looking for a majority of the vote, especially with regard to the trustees who have been elected to represent the tax-paying public in that regard.

The students' right to minimal class disruption: The bill states that teachers may not begin a strike and boards may not lock out teachers after October 31. Within the existing legislation, final offer selection is mandatory after 20 school days are lost. Personally, I would take a look at that one. I think that's far too long.

1020

Again, if one is still prepared in this province to give the teachers the right to strike, one has to understand what goes with that. You can't tell them when and for how long they can strike unless, in my view, the students are in jeopardy of losing their school year. I feel, then, that we are looking to the government for some leadership. It should be stepping in, especially right now in the Carleton Board of Education.

With regard to the students themselves, I don't think there's a member in this House who doesn't recognize that students have a right to an education. That's why I'm so keen to have Bill 100 revisited. Since 1975 we have had an opportunity to take a look at the success of that piece of legislation. I think there have been many successes, but we also have the responsibility to take a look at how that legislation can be improved. It's something I personally have been involved in and asked for since I've been here in the last four years. I'm somewhat encouraged that the majority of the members on that particular standing committee on public accounts agreed with us that this ought to be something the government takes a look at, certainly within this term of office. I encourage them to get that high on their agenda.

With regard to the precedent-setting of strikes in the province of Ontario, there are those who would argue that we haven't had a lot of strikes in this jurisdiction compared to other jurisdictions, either in Canada or the United States. I don't feel we should be afraid to take a look at improvements, but I think the bottom line for all of us is affording students the opportunity to be educated. At this point, I don't think very many of us are particularly proud of the strikes going on in Ontario right now. We look to the leadership of both the teachers and the school board trustees to solve those, but because we are now in the middle of the

month of May we ought to be looking to the government to step in.

There's no doubt in my mind that young people are in jeopardy not only of losing their school year but of losing confidence in the system. We're setting up a model that we shouldn't be setting up as adults and certainly not as elected representatives.

At this point I would like to refer to an article written in a magazine called *Education Today*. Those of us interested in education and who have been for a long time will know that one of the true experts with regard to this legislation—I have to date myself and say I was part of the negotiations around Bill 100 from the school board trustees' point of view in London, Ontario. At that time, we had the pleasure and certainly the honour of working with Bruce Stewart, who has continued to be an expert. He's from the law firm Hicks, Morley, Hamilton, Stewart and Storie. He wrote a very interesting article that I would refer to all of you for information. He states:

"The November 1990 Provincial Auditor's report states that the ministry has not yet dealt with the recommendations of the 1984 Macdonald commission and observes that trustees and board administrators 'have expressed concerns with the present localized collective bargaining system.'"

So we know, with his expertise, that there are concerns. We've had the recommendation since 1984 and I urge this government to get on with it.

Under the heading "Does the Negotiation System Work Efficiently?" he states in this article: "Certainly the perception of many participants in the process is that it does not. I have never experienced a labour relations environment where negotiations were so time-consuming, protracted and ultimately exhausting."

We have to take these observations coming from the Ontario expert seriously. For the sake of our young people, our students and certainly in the interest of my colleague the member for Ottawa South, who had the courage to bring forth an opportunity for this debate, we've got to move on with this.

He goes on to say, "One can fairly conclude that the system is not working efficiently when 70% to 80% of contracts are not resolved by contract expiry." There's no other field of collective bargaining where we would have 70% to 80% of contracts not concluded by the expiration date. We're talking here about children and education.

"Behind the cold statistic of unresolved disputes there are the dynamics of acrimony: teachers without a contract, the partisan rhetoric of media releases, the barrage of righteousness at fact-finding hearings; and gossip and discord in staff rooms and boardrooms. Invariably, the effects seep into the classroom, disrupting the educational environment."

"In my view, improvements in the present system must be centred on certain structural flaws in the legislation," and with respect to the bill today that's exactly what the member for Ottawa South has attempted to do.

I could go on and talk about pressures for settlement. I could talk about the teacher unions with regard to the aspect that compulsory fact-finding may obstruct the settlement. I could go on within this article and talk about work

to rule and specific structural changes required. In fact, I end by saying this:

"Perhaps Bill 100 should be revised to require teacher joint bargaining by elementary and secondary branch affiliates at a board. It may be possible to devise a form of two-tier bargaining whereby at one level the two branch affiliates could pursue common benefit and salary interests, and at a separate level each branch affiliate could pursue other issues singular to it.

"In any event, I suspect this problem will become more visible in the next round of bargaining." This was a year ago. "Boards should now start assessing how significant the problem is and what mechanism should be constructed to deal with it."

On that note, I've raised even more issues that must be dealt with. I conclude that although the member in fact has brought this to the floor of the House and has made an effort, his bill should be considered along with a total review of the old Bill 100 and we should get on with making the collective bargaining process more efficient in Ontario.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): I always appreciate the measured comments of the member for London North, because she has a vast knowledge of education and the educational field.

I think, however, the salient question about the bill we're looking at this morning is whether or not this bill contributes to the solution to the problem. I would indicate that very clearly it does not. In fact, this bill would aggravate the collective bargaining process by tipping the balance of power in a draconian, undemocratic way into the hands of the trustees.

When we talk about this bill, I think we need to take a look at what it actually does. There seems to be a lot of skating around the issue of this bill by the member for Ottawa South by injecting a lot of information which—while important and which as legislators we should be cognizant of; that is, the problems that exist in the education system—is not relevant to whether there are strikes or not.

What is wrong in the system—and I am a firsthand participant in that process—is that there are built-in problems in the collective bargaining process, as the member for London North has indicated. Saying that 60% of the teachers are irresponsible or that 60% of the teachers don't know what they're doing or that 60% of the teachers who vote on these contracts are incompetent or that 60% of the teachers do not care about what is happening and that a small élite is the only group of people within the teaching profession who care is indeed an insult. I take it personally as an insult, as I have spent 15 years in the education system, participated in the collective bargaining process and been on strike, albeit only for one day.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): Why didn't you stay there and teach?

Mr Wiseman: In keeping with the totally undemocratic nature of this is the heckling that is coming from the member from the Tory party, who is not in his chair.

What is interesting about this bill and why I do not support it is that under the fundamental principles of democratic choice it has always been maintained that on a clear

question of yes or no, the majority rules. In this House, 40% of these members do not pass a bill; it is 50% plus one. What this bill says is that only the élite, only a small group of people in our society are able to make decisions in a competent, responsible way.

1030

I would like to talk a little bit about that, because 15 years in the teaching profession has really brought to me how much teachers agonize and take care when it comes to their students. They wouldn't be there if they didn't have great care and concern for their students. This is demonstrated by the long hours teachers voluntarily put into coaching teams, intramural sports, clubs, recreational activities, environmental clubs, astronomy clubs, field trips and all the activities they do after school and on weekends with their students.

To come along today and say, by this bill, that 60% of those people are incompetent, irresponsible and not concerned about their students is an insult to every teacher in this province. It harks back to a day when the élite ruled, when it was okay, for example, in Britain in the 19th century that only a small part of the population was even allowed to vote. It harks back to the day when it was said that women were not persons and therefore should not participate in the democratic process, and that's within this century. It harks back to the day when they said democracy was only for that small group of people who are part of the aristocracy of wealth or the aristocracy of whatever methods they wanted to use to determine who should rule.

If you're saying now that 40% of the population is good enough to make the decisions, then in what other areas do you start bringing in that rule? Do you bring it in here to this legislative body? Do you bring it in to all the other negotiating processes? Do you attribute it to all the other unions and all the other votes? Do you put it to the board of directors at corporations that minority rules? Where do you end when you start to erode the democratic principles of equity and fairness.

I say to the member that what you're doing with this bill is telling the teachers and educators of this province that they are not worthy, and I reject that categorically.

He also indicates that he doesn't understand the process, and indeed he does not. There are things that can be done to make the process much better in terms of collective bargaining. For example, why does it always take so long to get a contract on the table from the trustees? In the 17 years that I followed negotiations in Durham region, it was only on maybe two or three occasions that we had a contract on the table before the expiration of the contract currently in force, and it took 12, 14 or 16 months to get a contract that both parties could sit down and take a look at.

Therefore, it's important we look at what can happen. Changes need to be made. The books of the boards of education should be open to all parties, including the taxpayers who happen to pay all the bills. There should be early tabling of contracts and statements of interest earned on money. This is the biggest bone of contention. One of the reasons contracts take so long is because interest earned on the money that is retroactive is not paid to the teachers; it stays in the coffers of the boards and becomes

part of their capital. There is therefore no incentive for them to settle in a reasonable amount of time.

I'm going to wrap up. When you talk about the 20 days, some boards will say that and build it into the negotiations process. They'll say, "We'll take the \$20 million or so that we can save on negotiations and use that as a ploy against bargaining in fairness." It is because contracts are open and teachers enter into it in good faith and do not take going on strike easily that they will negotiate and negotiate fairly. But if you take away those rights and tilt it in favour of the boards, then you will have greater chaos, greater problems and greater dysfunctioning of the system than you have today.

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I'd like to begin by congratulating the member for Ottawa South for a bill that is both timely and puts the focus where it belongs, on the students. I think the two strikes in Ottawa and the work-to-rule campaign in Toronto have focused attention on these matters at this time.

First, let's look at the present system. How does it work and what does it do? It gives rights to teachers' unions and it gives rights to boards of education, but what about the students? Who protects their rights? Who expresses their concerns? Under the present system, nobody. I do believe that at the beginning of negotiations both sides keep the interests of students in mind. However, as a strike is protracted and as the negotiations lengthen, animosities develop. The struggle becomes institutional, union versus board, and after becoming institutional it becomes personal. At this stage the student gets forgotten.

I want to refer to an article from the Ottawa Citizen which quotes a teacher in the recent strike as saying the following: "The teachers are the unimportant people at the board. I'm just a number in the school system, and that's the way I'm going to behave in future." I think that says a lot about what the present system does. What about the students? They've just missed 23 days of school. Don't they need extra help? If he's to be taken at his word, no. He's just a number. He's going to act like a number and not like a teacher.

In another article, the Ottawa Citizen goes on to say, "Months from now, the Education Relations Commission will quietly arrange an intensive workshop session to help OBE teachers and trustees work through the acrimony caused by the strike."

Let me repeat that. Teachers and trustees will work through the acrimony caused by the strike. Once again an important word is missing: students. What about the students? How many will have dropped out? How many will have failed their year? Who will soothe the disruption in their lives and the threat to the future? Do you still think the present system works?

Let's look at it another way. According to research done by my colleague the member for Ottawa South, as of August 31, 1991, strikes and lockouts have affected over 789,000 students. That's 1,331 days of instruction lost. This works out in my calculations to over one billion student-days lost due to strikes and lockouts since 1975—one billion student days lost, and that's not including this year. This is mind-boggling. Do you still think this system

works? Perhaps that is why Ontario students don't measure up to university entrance standards. How many Japanese students could afford to lose six weeks of school and perform? Aren't their superior results due to longer school days and longer school years, which means more instruction, not less, as well as more stringent curricula? Let's give our students a chance and support this bill.

This bill would establish students' interest advocates to represent students at negotiations during a strike or a lock-out. It would limit the duration of strikes to 20 days. It would limit strikes to early in the school year, when students have the greatest chance of making up for lost time. It would up the minimum term of agreements from one to two years. Most important, it would give each teacher the right to vote on the terms of the settlement rather than merely ratifying terms signed by the union. This would enable them to use their personal judgement, which I think would, in the main, place the interests of the students first, ahead of even their own. Isn't this why they chose this profession?

Recalling my own days at school, I remember my teachers in the separate system working for 20% less than their counterparts in the public system because of their dedication and deep commitment to their students and their calling. I believe the same ethic prevailed in the public system. I believe that many, if not most, of the present-day teachers are just as dedicated. The present system prevents them from demonstrating this. As Jim Coyle of the Ottawa Citizen so aptly puts it, "This bill gives students the right to attend classes." Let's all support it.

1040

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to rise and speak for just a couple of moments on the member for Ottawa South's Bill 14 today. I want to say from the outset that although I very much appreciate what the member for Ottawa South is trying to do, I find that the bill is riddled with a number of flaws and therefore in the final analysis I won't be supporting it.

I would say as a quasi-positive comment that I do understand the provision of the bill which would in effect prohibit strikes when students are most vulnerable. Particularly, we've seen a real trend of strikes in February, March and April by teachers, at a critical time in the school year where certainly the situation arises where the students' school year and obtaining of credits could be jeopardized. We've seen, I think, a disturbing trend.

I know the bill tries to deal with that issue, and while half of me is supportive of that thrust, the other half says that you really can't have it both ways. You either believe in the right to strike and the collective bargaining process or you don't. Really, I don't think a bill that attempts to have it both ways, although it is trying, I suppose, to strike a balance, would really be acceptable to the teachers. On the other hand, I don't think it would be really acceptable to the school boards.

Second, I just want to talk about fact-finders in the bill and our experience with them. The bill says that if negotiations break down, a fact-finder is appointed whose recommendations for settlement are binding. Section 5 of Bill 14

states that a fact-finder's report is to be voted on by school teachers and trustees. If approval is received by two fifths of each membership, then the report is binding.

I contacted my local public school board, the Simcoe county public school board, and the chairman there, Richard Boswell, says that the fact-finders will not prove to be helpful to school boards. I just wanted to put that on the record. He points out that two-fifths approval does not even represent a majority.

Fact-finder reports often lose sight of fiscal reality and recommend outrageous settlements. A recent Toronto Star article of March 30 documents exactly this, and I'll just quote it. It says:

"In one report this January, the fact-finder highlighted the rationale for restraint, referred to Premier Bob Rae's television address advocating restraint and noted that a wage increase of 6.1% or anything close to it was completely out of the question.

"The fact-finder, by adjusting the timing of increases, then recommended an increase which would raise the teachers' salaries by 4% by the end of the school year."

This report came out in January, when it was clear that inflation was coming in at 1.6% and that the government's transfer payments to school boards would be 1%.

I think I also want to point out here that arbitrators have proved to be rather costly too. We've seen recommendations between 4% and 7% over one year and 12% over two years.

At approximately the same time as this fact-finder's report in January, I just want to point out that Leeds-Grenville and Lanark also had a fiscally irresponsible increase come in at 6.1%.

I don't think the bill really tackles these issues, and there are a number of other issues for the time I don't have, but I would just point out that I appreciate the thrust but will not be supporting it.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I wish to commend the member for Ottawa South for his bill, and I'm sure the situation in his area, in the Ottawa-Carleton region, deserves the concerted attention of all the involved parties and a great deal of goodwill. I can well understand the concern the member has for the quick resolution of those difficulties. Students, parents, trustees, administrators and teachers are all crying out for a resolution of an impasse that none could have wished.

When I worked as a family therapist, virtually all the families who consulted with me had reached an impasse in their family lives. They were blocked and needed assistance in going beyond their traditional ways of handling problems. They wanted me to provide them with solutions that would help them transcend those difficulties, those impasses. Often their pain and the threats to their previously healthy and joyous lives would tempt me to offer them simplistic solutions, a magic potion that would return them to health.

Sometimes, when these situations occur, it's easy to reduce the dynamics to a quick win-lose solution. It's tempting to find a simple solution wherein the answer descends from heaven like a *deus ex machina*. The rendering

of divine justice from a towering height would indeed seem a welcome prospect.

Teachers, students and trustees are all involved in a system where they hold some common values as a group. They all want to preserve the values of education and the development of schools to become the best they can be.

At the same time there's always some tension, as in any family and any social system. When they reach an impasse, the system seems to threaten to burst apart at the seams. The parties start to blame each other. Some students become angry with the administration. They feel betrayed by their teachers. Teachers can feel they are misunderstood by the community and that they are dealing with intractable administrators. Trustees and administrators can feel they are dealing with competing and irreconcilable interests. The conflicts and differences between them become the defining characteristics as far as the other groups are concerned.

These healthy and vital groups come to see each other as antagonists. How can they return to a spirit of cooperation and partnership? Does it happen easily after a solution has been imposed upon them from above by a mechanism that all parties are not in agreement with? No. Most emphatically no.

We've seen the results of back-to-work legislation. After such legislation, the bitter feelings engendered by the impasse continue and even worsen. When the next negotiations occur there's been no healing and the same level of conflict recurs, and again like the *deus ex machina* the provincial government is called upon to enact back-to-work legislation.

The history of collective negotiation exemplifies this. Bill 100 was enacted some 17 years ago by the Progressive Conservative government at the time. One would say they were progressive when they brought in the act, but they soon resorted to conservative back-to-work legislation to resolve the impasses that emerged. This only produced another form of impasse. Boards didn't have to settle, as they could rely on Big Brother to help out. Later, when back-to-work legislation wasn't regularly and automatically used, teachers' strikes became shorter and less frequent. The parties were able to gather to resolve their difficulties.

This is not back-to-work legislation—I certainly acknowledge that—and yet in some very clear ways it is very much like it. It is a heavy-handed and, I would suggest, lastingly ineffective solution. I am sure my friend does not want to have the earlier Tory errors repeated in his community. It would create more problems by far than it would solve.

I might offer a temporary solution—anyone could; those problems in my friend's regions are, I'm sure, very vexing—but, like back-to-work legislation, it will only be a temporary solution whose shortcomings will cripple its effectiveness. As long as this mechanism is not owned by the parties involved, its results will be despised and disowned by them.

As a family therapist, I understood that families need to develop their own tools, their own mechanisms for the resolution of their difficulties. If those disadvantaged families could learn how to solve the problems they consulted

me about, if they learned how to resolve other difficulties, other impasses in their lives, they left the therapeutic process with much.

Teachers and school boards are sophisticated and caring groups. Their problems with process should very seldom be resolved from on high. They need that help from on high much less than most of the families I worked with. How demeaning that would be for these sophisticated, caring, resourceful people.

1050

I've worked with some of the least-skilled families in my community, families that traditionally resort to violence and power to resolve problems. With that backup of violence, solutions inevitably came with stultifying simplicity. Children growing up with violence learn to be violent and in turn pass on their violence to their children and their community. Imposing a process without the consent of the parties involved is surely as poor a solution to the vicissitudes of conflict resolution as imposing a solution itself. I'm wearing a button that says, "Without consent it's sexual assault." Equally here, without consent to a mechanism it's an assault, an assault upon the dignity and the goodwill there on all parts.

As a family therapist I learned that I had to resist the temptation to provide from on high instant and obvious solutions to family problems, both to the problems and to the process. Anything so simple was well within the grasp of the families I worked with. What they needed was to find the tools to resolve their own problems, to overcome their own impasses. Similarly, we must resist the temptations here.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I rise in support of my colleague Dalton McGuinty, the member for Ottawa South, and also in support of his bill, which seeks to amend the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act and provide reasonable grounds for protecting the students when there is a strike or lockout.

What exactly will this legislation do? Equally as important, what will it not do? First, let me dispel any suggestion that this legislation is an exercise in teacher-bashing. Teachers perform one of the most valuable services and functions in our society: the education of our children. This legislation seeks not to limit teachers' rights but rather to ensure that their rights are in tandem with the rights of the children, the students. I believe an awful lot of teachers out there would believe this is a laudable goal.

Let me also repudiate the notion that this bill is meant to impinge on the authority of school boards. Just as we recognize the rights of teachers, we also recognize the difficult task our school boards face when they're trying to meet the competing demands and impossible combination of taxpayer fiscal demands, teachers' negotiations and concern for the student.

This bill seeks neither to destroy teachers' powers nor to severely limit the mandate of the boards. In both cases nothing could be further from the truth.

Now that we've talked about what this bill is not, let's talk about what this bill is. This bill provides a vehicle to

ensure that the student is the first priority of both the negotiating parties in the collective bargaining process. The legislation proposed by the member for Ottawa South will help ensure that the student does not end up as a pawn caught between two powerful players as they negotiate with what appears to be the most expendable item on the chess board—that's right, the student.

So much for the theory. What does this bill actually do? First, it limits the time the parties have to negotiate, so that contracts can no longer drag on and on. I think all members of this Legislature would agree that we should try to avoid the situation which now exists, where teachers can be two years without a contract.

Second, it will impose some restrictions on when a strike or lockout can occur. As the member for Ottawa South has mentioned, the spring is a popular time to strike because it creates a very real pressure to end the strike quickly so that students can complete their year. Unfortunately, this is the time of year when students are most vulnerable, because unless the strike does settle quickly there will not be sufficient time for the students to recover and save their year. Also, according to Bill 14, any strike or lockout must commence no later than October 31. This would give the students sufficient time to recover from any strike and complete their year.

Third, the duration of the strike would be limited to 20 days. This too is an added protection to ensure that the students' academic progress is not in jeopardy. That's a weakness in the current act that Bill 14 seeks to remedy. At present we don't have much in the way of criteria or definition of what actually constitutes jeopardy. It is left to the sole discretion of the Education Relations Commission to determine when the student is in jeopardy. After having survived the 1987 Toronto strike, I can tell you that there is not unanimous agreement among parents, students, teachers and the Education Relations Commission as to when jeopardy occurs.

The fourth thing Bill 14 will do is compel the education relations commissioner to appoint an impartial third-party fact-finder, who must recommend terms of settlement. Then the teachers must vote on the recommendations and the board must vote. In each case, if 40% vote in favour, the report is binding on that party. I believe the member for Durham West said he could not vote for this legislation because that was not a majority. I say to him, do not let that keep you from supporting this bill. We can hash out in committee what is a reasonable time, and many of us probably feel that a majority is a reasonable figure to work with.

There's one final important provision I'd like to touch on: the appointment of a students' interest advocate. The students' interest advocate would be present at each negotiation so that he or she could represent to the parties the impact the strike will have on the students. It is true that the students' interest advocate cannot vote. It is also true that the advocate cannot interfere or comment on the matters in dispute. What the students' interest advocate can be is a constant reminder to the parties that the stakes are much higher than money, higher than benefits or higher than saving face. The real stake is the future of our young people.

Mr Speaker, I say to you and to the honourable members of this House: Let us have the courage to face this controversial issue and once and for all act in the best interests of our children.

This bill will not solve all the problems facing the educational community. We must also deal with curriculum changes and look at innovative solutions such as year-round education. The bill isn't perfect, but at least it starts the discussion. Let us have the courage to open up the debate. I think we, as members, cannot do less.

I commend the member for Ottawa South for his initiative, and also for his courage and for his caring of the children of this province.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I too commend the member for Ottawa South, but I would like to say to the House that I will not be supporting the bill. I think there are many creative suggestions in here. Particularly the focus on the students is commendable. I also agree with the previous speaker that the member has opened a necessary debate.

The reason I won't be supporting the bill is that I have had a fair bit of experience with this. I was the chairman of a fairly major school board before the right to strike was available to teachers and the only recourse they had then was something called work to rule. I found that a very limiting sanction that I think everyone in the education system found wanting. I very much have supported the right to strike for teachers.

My problem with the bill is really that I don't think it will be effective in resolving the conflict between boards and their teachers, for a couple of reasons. First, my problem is that once you set a deadline on how long a strike can run, one side or the other, I'm afraid, determines it may be in its best interests to let that time run out and then the strike is over. Similarly, my concern with a date at which time the contract must be resolved, that is, October 31: The challenge there is that one side or the other determines it's in its best interests to let the clock run until that date arrives and then the dispute is over.

So as supportive as I am of many of the intentions in my colleague's bill, and as much as I appreciate the new approach he has taken, my concern is that this will not be helpful in the resolution of disputes between boards and teachers and may in fact exacerbate the problem. We need not stop on finding a better solution, but I cannot support this particular solution as outlined in the proposed bill.

1100

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): The honourable member for Ottawa South may want to complete the debate.

Mr McGuinty: I want to extend a special thanks to all members on all sides of the House who made a contribution to this debate. It's my sincere hope that we will come to some kind of grasp of the extent of the problem that faces us. I've counted 58 students facing me in the viewers' gallery today. What we are doing under the present system is taking 50,000 of our students every year and closing the school doors on them. It is my distinct impression that it is not in the public interest for this province to

hold 50,000 of our students outside class as a result of a dispute between other parties.

In case people confuse the perspective from which I speak, I want to make it perfectly clear that I don't speak today on behalf of the students, I don't speak today on behalf of teachers and neither do I speak on behalf of trustees or parents. I hope I am speaking on behalf of the public interest. It is my feeling that the public interest demands that we address this problem, that we address this system which has, on average, 50,000 of our students held outside their classrooms every year for over a month.

It is my impression that while those kinds of casualties may have been acceptable before, they are no longer acceptable. As a member of the opposition, there are severe limitations of course in terms of how I can advance this cause, but it is my hope that the members of the government, those who have the privilege and honour of bringing forth legislation which stands a much greater chance of making it through and becoming law, will take up the challenge and come forward with their own creative solutions to a very significant problem.

Some of the things I did not touch on were other problems associated with students who are kept out of school. Today there are fewer and fewer families where one of the parents is at home. Both are out working. What we have is a situation where many of the students are at home on their own. I haven't been able to gather the statistics in this regard, but it's my impression—I think it's a safe assumption—to say that more of those students are going to get into trouble.

I have also learned from speaking with teachers and board trustees that not every student who is affected by a strike or lockout returns to school when the school is reopened. That is an issue we have to address.

I don't think there's anybody in this House who would not argue that our future, the future of this province, lies in our youth. Surely we have every responsibility to address a problem whereby we are keeping our students out of school.

The Acting Speaker: This motion will be dealt with at the end of the second private members' hour, which is beginning now.

ACID GAS EMISSION CONTROL

Mr Cousens moved resolution 4:

That, in the opinion of this House, since each of the four major sulphur dioxide sources in Ontario reported in November 1989 to the standing committee on general government that they would meet or surpass the emission reductions required for 1994 by the Countdown Acid Rain program, and since the committee subsequently recommended that the Ministry of the Environment should "vigorously" plan for the post-1994 stage of acid gas emission control with respect to the four major polluters, and since the four major polluters only account for 80% of Ontario's sulphur dioxide emissions, therefore the Ontario government's Countdown Acid Rain program should be extended beyond 1994 and expanded to include the other 20% of emitters, and this government should introduce new regulations under the Environmental Protection Act that will:

1. Establish specific emission limits and schedules for each of the four major acid gas emission sources (Ontario

Hydro, Inco Ltd, Falconbridge and Algoma Steel) for the period 1995-2005, and

2. Establish specific emission limits and schedules for all other emitters of sulphur dioxide and nitric oxide.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Cousens moves private member's resolution 4. The honourable member for Markham has 10 minutes in which to open up debate, at which time all recognized parties will have 15 minutes to participate. The honourable member for Markham will then have two minutes to sum up.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This is an important issue that we have an opportunity to review for at least the next hour. When one looks at the environmental concerns that make up the whole issue the Minister of the Environment and all of us are concerned about, there are really four subjects. We're dealing with land and the resolution of landfill problems and contaminated soils. We're dealing with water and what we can do to make sure our waterways are clean and pure. We're dealing with air and what we can do to make sure the air we breathe and the air we have is as clean as possible, and fourth, all the regulatory and legal establishment around the Ministry of the Environment to make sure the Planning Act, the Municipal Act and those other acts that are part of the development of this province have an environmental emphasis. So primarily we're dealing with air, water and land.

My resolution this morning allows us to look at what we can do to deal with what is still an existing problem: acid rain. Far from having gone away, it's been something we have addressed for the last number of years, in which there has been significant progress made, and I'll certainly touch on that during my presentation. But let us not forget that acid rain is still a problem. It is a problem where sulphur dioxide, nitric oxide and their reaction to sunlight creates a very damaging substance. It pollutes the air; it pollutes the water; it destroys our lakes and forests. I know the number of maple trees that continue to die, and you somehow see it. They start dying at the top, and then before you know it the whole tree is dead. This acid rain is certainly something that slowly and continuously, unless we stop that source of acidity, will destroy more and more of our trees.

Indeed, acid rain contributes to the greenhouse effect and global warming. We're all more and more concerned as we have seen the changes in the climatic structure of our country and the world over recent years. If there's anything we can do to preserve and protect earth from ourselves, then we must do it. I'm told acid rain also contributes to ozone depletion.

So as you start looking at all the contributing factors, not only to our own local natural environment and the destruction of trees and lakes and our waters, but also when you look at the long-term implications throughout the globe and the atmosphere, we too must be very genuinely concerned about the long-term impact of acid rain.

Over a number of years, our Legislature, starting back in 1985 and earlier, was able to sit down with the four major contributors to the problem of acid rain and give them targets and involve them in finding a solution to it.

Since then, those four major polluters and causes of acid rain, who are Inco, Falconbridge, Algoma and Ontario Hydro, have done an incredibly excellent job in trying to reduce their acid rain levels. Whereas in 1985 Inco had levels of 728,000 tonnes per year, by 1994 it will have brought that down to almost a third: 265,000 tonnes per year. In 1985 Falconbridge had 154,000 tonnes, and will by 1994 have brought it down to 100,000 tonnes per year; Algoma Steel, from 285,000 tonnes down to 125,000; Ontario Hydro, almost in half, from 390,000 to 175,000.

1110

So often in the Legislature we, in our legislative freedom to say what we want when we want, are quick to reject the efforts made by industries and accuse them of having failed society in different ways. Far from that, I would like to at least take this moment to commend them.

Although there was some arm-twisting and pressure was brought to bear from ourselves in the Legislature, not to coerce but at least encourage them to meet these targets—and there would have been serious penalties had they not—none the less, they've done it and will have accomplished what would once have seemed impossible in having reduced significantly the amount of emissions of acid rain from their plants.

We continue to see a problem, however. I have so many statistics around this. A committee of the Legislature spent extensive time on it. Our standing committee on general government, which met back in 1989, reviewed this and came up with a series of recommendations. These recommendations continue to stand. Among the recommendations they made was that the Ministry of the Environment should continue to plan beyond 1994 and they stated a series of projects that the government, in cooperation with industry, could develop for a long-term strategy.

I believe that long-term strategy and working with the four major polluters, which I include in my resolution, can be done through sitting around a table where there can be discussion and dialogue, knowing that they've come an awful long way and knowing that to go the next yard or mile, however far it might be, could be a very expensive step. But there may be methods in which we can look at a continuing strategy between the province and those four major causes of acid rain and continue to develop a solution over the long term.

Let's not just leave 1994 to come and go without there being some peace of mind that there's an ongoing strategy for the future to continue to reduce our own emissions of acid rain in Ontario. That is the first part of my resolution.

The second part deals with another aspect to the whole problem, and that is those 20% of the people or companies that continue to provide far more acid rain. They don't have the regulations or controls the four major polluters had. I think it's terrible that I continue to call them polluters; they're corporations, responsible companies and they've done a great deal to address this problem.

We, as a government and as legislators, must look at the other sources of this problem. As you look at it you realize that petroleum refineries, primary metal refineries—it's not just the great big nickel refineries that are causing the problem; pulp and paper mills contribute 2.4% of sulphur

oxide, chemical manufacturing some 0.9%, different forms of manufacturing end up generating additional sources of acid rain and nitric oxide.

Our concern then is, what can we do about it? The first thing you had better understand is that certain parts of our province are more affected than others. The worst-affected areas happen to be in southwestern Ontario. The five worst-affected communities are Colchester, Merlin, Port Stanley, Wilkesport, Alvinston and Huron Park.

In the map provided here by the Ministry of the Environment, there isn't any doubt that they have a problem. I also have to believe that a large part of their problem isn't from Ontario and that we have a problem in the United States where, rather sadly, the Clean Air Act has been put on hold by the US government during an election year when they are trying to win other points with their electorate, causing our constituents and the people in our province to suffer unduly.

What we have is a system where you've got communities continuing to receive in excess of what is seen to be an acceptable rate of acid rain per year. The guidelines the Ontario government has say that 20 kilograms per hectare is an acceptable rate. In Minnesota there is another rate, 11 kilograms per hectare. What I would like to see through the continuing dialogue and discussion on this whole subject of acid rain is what an acceptable level is and to what degree we have a problem. I am not a scientist, but I would like to have a sense of understanding that the government is doing everything within its power to reduce those levels and to make sure that whatever level we have we can continue to live with in comfort and with some sense of security.

Something has been done in an acceptable way for the four major causes of acid rain. As to those other 20% that are producing such a great amount of it, can we not begin now, before the end of 1994, as a provincial Legislature to develop a strategy to deal with them?

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on Mr Cousens's private member's motion?

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I welcome this chance to speak for the environment this morning. As members of this House are well aware, this government and the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Ruth Grier, have a profound commitment to the environment, a commitment to bring about the kinds of measures that will renew and help sustain a healthful environment.

As has been indicated in the resolution of the member opposite, there are concerns about the kinds of industrial emissions that go into the air. In the past few years environmentalists, citizens and governments have become more and more aware of the health problems and environmental damage created by such emissions. As we become better informed and gather more scientific data, we can make better-informed decisions about the steps we must take to safeguard our future.

A good example of that action, based on scientific data and better information, is the decision taken by the Minister of the Environment in April 1991 to ban all future incinerators of municipal solid waste.

Last winter, the standing committee on social development heard once again from a number of people, including Dr Paul Connett, Dr Helen Henrickson and Dr J. Walter Ewing. They told us clearly that the incineration of municipal solid waste was irresponsible and unsafe. Dr Ewing told us that airborne emissions from incinerators contain heavy metals such as lead, solvents such as benzene, and complex hydrocarbons such as dioxins and furans. Dr Henrickson provided tables and data to illustrate the folly of incineration, while Dr Connett spoke eloquently of the absolute lunacy of burning the resources that we will need in the future.

This was the kind of information that supports the minister's decision to ban all future incinerators of municipal solid waste, a decision, I must say, that was soundly criticized in this House and in the standing committee on social development by the opposition and, ironically, by the very member of the third party who has brought this resolution to establish emission limits and schedules for the four major acid gas emission sources. I can only assume that the member for Markham has had a change of heart when it comes to what is going into the air. I'm pleased that the minister has effected this marvellous change in attitude. I might add that controlling emissions also supports our principle to prevent pollution in the first place.

I would like to turn my attention to the specific resolution introduced by the member opposite to establish emission limits beyond 1994 for sulphur dioxide and nitric oxide, two of the gases associated with acid rain. As with all decisions taken by this government, and as was the case with the decision to ban future municipal solid waste incinerators, any action will be based on reliable information. Let me be clear: We agree with the principle of the resolution. There is a need to move beyond the 1994 targets. The Ministry of the Environment is currently assessing various technologies to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions. When this study is complete and we have the data we need, the ministry will be in a position to decide on the appropriate action. The study is expected to be complete later this year, but we need reliable information to make good decisions, not premature decisions.

I would like to tell the House about some of the current activity to reduce other emissions. Nitric oxide from mobile and stationary sources is addressed under the federal-provincial nitric oxide volatile organic compounds management plan of November 1990. Under this federal-provincial arrangement, nitric oxide emissions from light-duty vehicles and trucks will be limited to 0.4 grams per vehicle-mile travelled as of 1996. This will provide a 60% reduction in these emissions.

1120

The Ministry of the Environment is currently evaluating regional initiatives to reduce nitric oxide emissions from stationary sources, with plans to develop a reduction program for Ontario. New source performance guidelines for a number of industrial sectors are being developed jointly by multistakeholder working groups. This would limit nitric oxide emissions from gas turbines and industrial boilers and would control emissions from future sources. These will be adopted by Ontario.

At this point in time industry involved in the Countdown Acid Rain program is on target. As of 1994 the emission limits for the four major acid gas emitters are capped. There will be no increase from those limits. In fact, Falconbridge, as has been mentioned, has announced that it will further reduce the 1994 limit, by another 25 kilotonnes by 1998. So you see, when it comes to sulphur dioxide and nitric acid emissions, industry realizes the environmentalists, the citizens and the government are concerned with acid rain and is moving to address those concerns through positive action.

I will conclude my remarks because I know my colleague the member for Peterborough would like to speak. I would, however, like to thank the member for Markham for his interest in the quality of air Ontarians breathe and assure him that once we have the data we need our minister will be in a position to make the informed decisions to safeguard our future and protect our environment, just as she did in April 1991.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I am pleased to rise in support of the resolution of the member for Markham and congratulate him for bringing forward this important issue at this time.

There are so many threats to our environment today that we as individuals feel very helpless to do anything to really change them. Just last week I was reading in the Sunday New York Times the sad story of the plight of our oceans and the degradation. Things like that, and the weakening of the ozone layers, we really can't individually do much to change, but as the member for Markham has aptly pointed out, acid rain is an issue we as legislators can change, so I think it's really timely that he's brought forward the opportunity to set new targets for the reduction of sulphur dioxide emissions in Ontario.

We can't do it alone. Half of Ontario's acid rain comes from the United States, mostly coal-fired power plants, so we need cuts on both sides of the border to solve the problem. But as far as we still have to go in Ontario, there's no doubt we have come a long way in the past seven years.

The cooperation from Ontario's four major emitters—Ontario Hydro, Inco, Falconbridge and Algoma Steel—has been exceptional, to such an extent that not only are they meeting the target set by the Countdown Acid Rain program, but it even appears that some of them are surpassing the targets. They are certainly to be commended for their efforts and their commitment to finding new technological ways to solve the problem.

The Ministry of the Environment recently sent out a news release, dated March 25, 1992, where it reported that Ontario's Countdown Acid Rain program was on schedule, and some of the things the ministry reported were very heartening.

They stated that there were increased budgets for the sulphur dioxide abatement projects at both Inco and Falconbridge's copper- and nickel-smelting operations in Sudbury. They reported that Ontario Hydro plans to install limestone slurry scrubbers, which will reduce sulphur dioxide emissions at the Lambton generating station, by 1994. They reported the possibility that Falconbridge may be

able to cut its sulphur dioxide emissions by one quarter of its 1994 target, to 75 kilotonnes by 1998. They reported that Ontario Hydro had a 77% cut in imported electricity for the six months ending July 1991 over the same period from the previous year. All those things signify that we are going in the right direction.

I also have to commend the former Minister of the Environment, Jim Bradley, who did so much, not only in initiating the Countdown Acid Rain program in December 1985, but in fostering the development of the program. I'm sure all members in this House will agree that his efforts and contributions to the success of the Countdown Acid Rain program should not go unnoticed.

By the way, the member for Middlesex mentioned and gave credit to the current Minister of the Environment for the ban of municipal solid waste incineration. I would like to bring to her attention that here too, Jim Bradley was way ahead of his time. In May 1989, Jim Bradley, as Minister of the Environment, had already banned the operation of 1,200 apartment building incinerators.

As positive as all these initiatives have been and as the program has been, the magnitude of the problem is still very serious. I would like to give you two examples of the impact of acid rain.

Did you know that between 2,000 and 4,500 lakes in Ontario may be acidified to the point where they can no longer support fish species? Scientists estimate that by the year 2000, another 48,000 lakes in Ontario could be dead. Pretty frightening, isn't it?

The maple syrup industry in Parry Sound has been affected to the point where the dieback rate of maple trees has more than doubled, from 2% to 5%. Trees that have not died have become weakened and more susceptible to disease and insect infestations. This has implications for Ontario's \$22-billion forest industry as well as our tourist and sports fishing industries.

I think these few facts illustrate that the problem has not gone away. I think it is very encouraging to find what the four major emitters have been doing, but another 20% of emitters in Ontario have not been touched. So, as the member for Markham has stated, now is the time to take the next step. Now is the time to plan the new targets. Now is the time to include those other 20% of acid rain emitters. Right now we do not have to meet targets, so I urge all members of this House to rise in support of the resolution that I am glad the member brought forward today.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on Mr Cousens's private member's resolution?

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): It's really a pleasure and an honour to rise today and support my colleague the member for Markham and his resolution. I think it is a very commonsense resolution that really recognizes the work that's been done in the past to stop acid rain emissions, to cut down on those emissions, and asks the government to be a bit visionary and to look beyond the 1994 planning framework that's in place now and to set emission reduction targets for those emitters, those many companies that are not included in the Big Four: Ontario Hydro, Inco, Falconbridge and Algoma Steel.

I think it's appalling that the NDP member who spoke earlier is not supporting this resolution today. I think it sends a terrible message to the 19 communities, some of which were alluded to in the member for Markham's remarks, communities like Alvinston, Campbellford, Cloyne and Gloucester, Coldwater, Dalhousie Mills, Dorset, Huron Park, Mattawa, Merlin, Port Stanley, Shallow Lake, Turkey Lakes, Uxbridge, Waterloo, Wilberforce and Wilkesport. I think it's a terrible message that the government has just sent out.

Really, it doesn't care about those communities and it doesn't care about the fact that currently, under the Countdown Acid Rain program, there's an unacceptably high amount of acid rain today being dumped on those 19 communities. It's information that's public from the Ministry of the Environment. We believe the information to be true. It's totally unacceptable for the government to pretend that the status quo is fine and that everything's going along hunky-dory. It isn't true at all.

I do want to talk for a moment about the Countdown Acid Rain program. I note that it has capped total sulphur dioxide emissions at 665 kilotonnes by 1994 for the four major producers of acid rain gases: Ontario Hydro, Inco, Falconbridge and Algoma Steel.

1130

In Ontario, the government's strategy over the years was to regulate each of the four major acid rain emission sources. The program and the regulations under the Environmental Protection Act were passed in December 1985 and established specific emission limits and schedules for the Inco and Falconbridge smelters in Sudbury, the Algoma Ore Division's iron ore sintering plant at Wawa and Ontario Hydro's fossil-fuelled electricity generating stations across the province.

I just want to point out that according to a March 25, 1992, MOE news release, "The four companies which produce more than 80% of Ontario's sulphur dioxide continue to meet the targets set by the six-year-old Countdown Acid Rain program."

I point out, as the member for Markham has pointed out, that these four companies have invested millions of dollars to rein in their sulphur dioxide emissions. The record at Inco, Falconbridge, Ontario Hydro and Algoma Steel is quite commendable. They've done a tremendous job of bringing down their emissions and spending really huge amounts of money. I note that Inco has increased its sulphur abatement projects budget from \$494 million to \$600 million and from 1986 to 1990 it has reduced its emissions from 685 kilotonnes to 525 kilotonnes.

Our own standing committee on general government in November 1989 noted that Inco "does not look at the 1994 targets as being the end of the road and is committed to supporting research and development to further limit emissions of acid gases."

That's really what today's resolution calls upon the government to do, to think beyond the program that's in place now and to deal with those 20% of polluters. As the member for Markham says, you hate to call companies polluters, but there are a significant number of companies out there that continue to emit harmful gases into our envi-

ronment and they're not being dealt with under the current regulations or programs.

Again, it's appalling that the government would not at least signal today, in support of a private member's bill, its intent to be helpful in this area, its intent to support what the Ontario PC Party really began in 1984. I think it was alluded to by the member for Markham. Some very tough decisions were taken by my party back in 1984 to begin the process of dealing with acid rain gas emissions in a significant way. I think we have a proud record there.

It's appalling for the socialist government, which certainly has campaigned over the years on being holier than thou on environmental issues and always better than Tories could ever be on environmental issues, to say today that it's not supporting this resolution. It is frankly mind-boggling.

I note the support of members of the Liberal caucus. I think that's very good because what the member for Markham is again trying to do is to bring us further into the future and to bring in some reasonable and fair reductions in those emissions harmful to our environment. I'm very supportive of it.

I would note that there's even more work to be done in the Big Four companies. They certainly understand that. While Ontario Hydro has been able to cut down its emissions at home, it has increasingly imported electricity from other jurisdictions, including the United States. Although in early 1991 it began to cut back its reliance on foreign power, it still remains too high and we have very little control or influence over what the emission targets are in the United States, where we're buying a significant amount of our power.

It's incumbent upon this government to work with its neighbours across the border to try to bring our standards into line and to get agreement, because when we import electricity, we're also really importing the problem back. The prevailing winds in North America bring a lot of the acid rain from the US, and to simply slough off our problem by having them generate the electricity there and us import it is not acceptable.

I think the resolution today is very worthwhile. It's unbelievable that all parties would not get together to support it.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much. Further debate on Mr Cousens's private member's resolution.

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I'd like to congratulate the member for Markham on raising the important matter of acid rain. There really is no quarrel here, I think. I would like to believe that his motives for doing this are non-political, because this, like other environmental questions, is truly a matter that concerns us all, and particularly those who look more than a year or two into the future or even, like our aboriginal friends, are concerned with seven generations ahead.

The only reason I shall not be voting for the resolution being put forward by the member for Markham is that I believe the matters which quite rightly concern the member are receiving attention. Specific limits on emission levels for 1995 to 2005 will be considered, I understand, if

and when they become necessary. But, as has been pointed out, the four companies that are participating in the Countdown Acid Rain program—Inco, Falconbridge, Algoma Steel and Ontario Hydro—have submitted their 11th progress report. Their emissions are being cut 67% by 1994 from the base case 1980 levels. Target reductions are being met or exceeded, and planned technological improvements will yield further reductions.

I also understand that the ministry is currently assessing various technologies available to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions and related control costs from other uncontrolled stationary sources. When this study is complete, the ministry will review the results and decide on future actions.

I do agree that at no point, whether it be in 1994 or beyond, should we relax our efforts to cut down on acid gas emissions. As population, economic activity and energy use increase, so do the pressures which lead to pollution.

The term "acid rain" is relatively recent, but as a child in Britain I used to wonder why many varieties of plant that flourished in rural areas simply would not grow in cities. Of course everybody then heated their homes with open coal fires. I remember the choking yellow fog that hit London in the early 1950s, causing many deaths.

However, much of Britain's acid rain emissions are blown eastward to Europe. This unwelcome gift has devastated lakes and forests in Scandinavia. Germany's Black Forest is suffering massive dieback. The collapse of eastern Europe and the USSR is probably as much due to unbridled environmental destruction, which undermines both the health and wealth of people there, as to any other cause.

We only need to look at the moonscape the Sudbury area became as once-productive farms were forced to close, or at dying maple trees and the reduced productivity of the sugar bush in many areas, and at those lakes where the water looks clean and pure but nothing lives and one-time salmon streams from which the salmon have disappeared, to realize that we must take acid gas emissions very seriously indeed.

It has been said that half the acid gas pollution we experience here in Ontario originates in the United States. This also means, of course, that half of it originates right here. We have to fix our own half of the problem if we're to have any credibility when we complain about what is coming in from outside.

At least we are making good progress, and the situation is already a great deal better than it would have been if no action had been taken. Inco is switching to new technology which will lead to the production of marketable sulphuric acid, an indication of the positive economic effects that can accrue from pollution control. Ontario Hydro is fitting scrubbers to its coal-fired generating stations at Lambton and Nanticoke and is buying low-sulphur coal.

Nitric oxide, largely generated by vehicles but also by stationary sources, is the major cause of lung-damaging, ground-level ozone and the photochemical smog which this can generate. Toronto is particularly badly affected by this, as a recent survey of North American cities has

shown. I believe that federal programs are addressing this problem.

1140

It's difficult to separate the acid rain problem from the related problems of global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer. To address these, we need to look also at the emission of carbon dioxide and of methane and chlorofluorocarbons. We need to all work together on these problems because we all have our health and our world to lose. Recent experiments have shown that in my own area, Peterborough, climatic stress rather than acid rain is causing tree dieback.

We are playing a grizzly game of roulette with the ozone layer, arguably the most threatening problem at this time. There was an article in the *Globe and Mail*, I think just last week, that described the situation in Patagonia, southern Chile, where the ozone layer is down to something like half of normal levels. Wildlife such as rabbits and fish are going blind. There was a market gardener who was increasingly finding that his crops would not grow out of doors. They were being shrivelled up by the ultraviolet radiation and he was having to put more and more of his plants into greenhouses. Unless we want to keep our children indoors during the day and grow all our food in greenhouses, give up our sunbathing habits, we're going to have halt the release of CFCs and halons into the atmosphere.

It is in the best interests of business, large and small, to be in the vanguard of progress rather than clinging to out-of-date methods of production and even out-of-date products. By using products such as gypsum and coal ash for construction and producing sulphuric acid, we can substitute valuable byproducts for what used to be hazardous waste.

I commend the Ministry of the Environment for what it has done and is doing. I hope and believe that they will maintain and increase their efforts.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to rise and speak to the resolution of the member for Markham that is before us this morning.

I want to comment very briefly on the comments made by the member for Peterborough and tell her that I appreciate very much her overview and the very sincere concern the member has. She has been noted for her concern and involvement in environmental issues, even prior to her election to this place. You are to be commended for that, I say to the member for Peterborough, and I thank her as well for the overview in terms of looking at this not only from our point of view in Ontario but also on an international basis and recognizing that, when all is said and done, we are all one people on this earth. What we do here affects people elsewhere in the world and what people do elsewhere affects us.

Pollution knows no boundaries. It knows no international or provincial boundaries. The air that we breathe, the water that sustains our life and sustains our planet is part and parcel of the world that we live in and travels literally around the world. In that lies one of the great concerns that

the member for Markham seeks to address in his resolution today.

I also want to thank my colleague the member for Eglinton for her thoughtful presentation on the resolution this morning, in laying out some of the factual concerns in terms of acid rain and its impact in our jurisdiction of the province of Ontario.

I don't think coincidental—perhaps it is coincidental—the fact that before I came in here this morning I was walking down the hall and ran into a group of young people together with their teacher, as it turns out, from just outside the city of Guelph, and they asked who I was and what I was doing. I mentioned my role as Environment critic and I chatted for a while with the students. The teacher said, "What's happening about air emissions with automobiles?" "Very little," was the response, although we have seen some initiatives taken by the government in terms of tax initiatives, looking at a tax incentive to buy automobiles that would not use as much fossil fuel that would ultimately contribute to acid rain.

I think that points out the thing the member for Peterborough was touching on, that for young people, and people of all ages, this is not a political issue. It's an issue that touches on all of us and indeed will touch on generations to come.

Again, I say to the member for Markham, thank you very much for what you're doing here today. As the member for Simcoe West said, I hope the government members will consider the spirit in which it is put forward. It is not a challenge to the government. It is a challenge to each and every one of us to move beyond the point we will be at in 1994, when the regulations set by the Countdown Acid Rain program expire, and say by way of resolution, not binding on the government but directive, that we will move together to go beyond 1994, recognizing that was a significant step in dealing with the four major polluters in the province but that there is much more that needs to be done.

I think it interesting as well to read into the record some statements made in 1989 by the now Minister of Environment with respect to this very issue which would lead me to believe that if the minister were here today she would be in full support of the resolution put forward by the member for Markham.

For example, in October 1989, when we were considering the Countdown Acid Rain program before committee, she had some concerns about CAP, the clean air program, and was concerned that it was bogged down. "This is serious, because in a number of other contexts, when you ask about air pollution and air regulations, a lot of credence is put on CAP...we were told that the control of small sources, of course, would rely on CAP." If I can digress from the quote, the small sources are the other 20% not covered by Countdown Acid Rain. "If CAP is long overdue and not proceeding apace, when do we get to control the small sources?" We are going to have to be controlled under Countdown Acid Rain through until 1994. "What about all the others? What about post-1994?"

Is that not the very question the member for Markham puts in his resolution? What about post-1994? What are we

going to do beyond that? The minister went on to say, again in October 1989: "Is there planning beyond Countdown Acid Rain? What preparation has been made to bring the major polluters below the limits that they are going to be reaching in 1994?" I might add parenthetically that some of them will reach them before 1994 and will exceed the limits. But surely that is the essence of the resolution put forward by the member for Markham today. Those were the words of the now Minister of the Environment, the leader of the government today in terms of environmental issues.

Not only that. As Minister of the Environment, she has the role in terms of leadership for this entire province. I hope that in her absence her colleagues will recognize that and will in effect speak on behalf of the Minister of the Environment in support of the resolution by the member for Markham, because I cannot for the life of me see any distinction, quite frankly, between the questions that were put and the concerns that are implicit in those questions raised by the minister in 1989. They seem to me to be fully supportive of the resolution by the member for Markham.

I also might add that in the last Parliament the now Minister of the Environment was very supportive—as you know, Mr Speaker, much of what happens in this place that seems to get all the attention is when there is some difference of opinion and issues of contention. But the now Minister of the Environment, Mrs Grier, was very supportive, over and over again, in giving recognition to the work by the member for St Catharines in initiating the Countdown Acid Rain program and the tremendous accomplishments that achieved.

I hope you will accept, I say to my friends of all three parties and my colleagues in this caucus, in the spirit that I hope will prevail with respect to the resolution by the member for Markham this morning, a series of comments made by the Honourable Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment, on April 30, 1992, just a week ago. A week ago today in the morning Mrs Grier said, "But industry is not the only key factor in preventing pollution. It's a challenge that transcends...economics," among other things. She said it "transcends engineering, technology and economics. Preventing pollution is a social challenge. It calls for education, adjusting habits and attitudes and inducing positive changes in the way we think, work, do business and live." She also went on to say—I hope I can find the quote—that we needed to change the way we conduct ourselves in government, because the environment is too important to allow it to get caught up in partisan issues.

1150

I would urge my colleagues opposite, particularly, to look at the substance of what Mr Cousens is saying. He's not being critical in any respect. He recognizes that advances have been made in terms of the Countdown Acid Rain Program, but in the words of the Minister of the Environment today, "That's good, but there's more to be done." Mr Cousens recognizes that and says, "Let's move ahead and move forward." So I would urge my colleagues to support Mr Cousens's resolution this morning.

I would hope that the government members, in fact all members of this House, would support the resolution

because of the spirit it embodies. Nobody pretends they have all the answers, but we have a series of many solutions that can be brought to bear on a massive problem.

I commend the member for Markham. I thank him for his initiative and I thank my colleagues on this side of the House and opposite who have risen in support of that resolution and I hope we would accept it, I say to my friend Mr Cousens, the member for Markham, as a challenge. As well, each and every one of us can contribute and be vigilant and do what we can in our own communities as well as on the level we serve for the province of Ontario.

As the member for Peterborough so very well brought to our attention, what we do here affects women, men and children, literally, around the world. We share this planet together. Certainly this is the kind of thing where we can work together in bringing some solutions that will move us ahead, and not just rely on the past but look forward. Again, I commend the member for Markham.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): In the very brief time that's allowed me, I also want to commend the member for Markham for bringing forth this resolution and indicate to him that I have every intention of voting with him on this matter.

There's no question that in Victoria-Haliburton, the area I come from, there's a significant problem with our maple forest. It has been affected significantly by acid rain. There's no question that the kinds of measures Mr Cousens puts forward would be helpful in trying to ensure that this matter is grappled with.

We have had many accords with various jurisdictions in terms of the northern United States and in terms of the United States as a nation, and I've found this has not been enough to ensure that acid rain is diminished. I think the kinds of things that are suggested in this resolution are not only timely but essential if we're going to be able to combat this particular problem. As I said, as I represent an area where there is a significant maple forest, I would like to assure the honourable member of my support for this resolution.

Mr Cousens: I thank all members of the House for their participation in the debate on this important issue. I particularly appreciate the support I've received from one member opposite, the member for Victoria-Haliburton, and I also very much appreciate the comments from the member for Eglinton and the member for Brampton North and from my colleague in our own caucus, the member for Simcoe West.

The fact of the matter is that I see this as very much a non-partisan issue and certainly a non-threatening resolution to the present Ministry of the Environment. You just have to go back to when the standing committee on general government met in 1989. The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ruth Grier, was on that committee as a substitute. She was part of the group that made recommendations from that committee. There were a series of nine recommendations. One of those, the first one, is that "the Ministry of the Environment should vigorously plan for the post-1994 stage of acid gas control." She was part of that recommendation.

I now hear the member for Peterborough and the member for Middlesex almost indicating that the minister is backing off from a committee report that she was part of, and that is what I really have concern with, because I also concur with the member for Brampton North, Carman McClelland, who said that if the minister were here, she would probably support it. Certainly she did then, unless it's an example of where she's had a change of heart.

Nine recommendations were made by that committee to have an ongoing monitoring of air emissions, a series of recommendations that we just don't want to take for granted, that we just don't want to leave to chance. We as legislators have a responsibility to fulfil, and we can fulfil that responsibility in such a way that we work in consultation now with the four major problem generators of acid rain and nitric oxide. We can work with them. They have proven goodwill and they have gone beyond the guidelines, and there may be ways in which they, in cooperation with the government and with technology, and we can together move further into the future to have even better successes.

The concerns that are raised by the member for Simcoe West about the number of Ontario municipalities and communities that are suffering inordinate amounts of acid rain is a matter of concern. Don't take it for granted. We can do all we can, and we must. To just let it happen in post-1994 is to take a chance, whereas if we sit down and plan it together, we can come up with some remedies and some long-term strategies.

The United States government has proven how bad it can get on this issue, and I don't have any excuses for that group. You come along and have President Bush say, "Every American expects and deserves to breathe clean air. These principles will guide us as we turn the promise of the act into a legacy of clean air"—that's when he was talking about the Clean Air Act of 1990—and yet they're sitting on them. The United States government is sitting on this as a possible issue on which it could be working, and I have a good feeling it is doing it because it's election year.

This is not an election issue. This is one of the fundamental issues that have to do with the whole society, the wellbeing of our hemisphere, the wellbeing of this globe. Sure, it's manifested in the destruction of trees, lakes, river systems and soil, and yes, it goes beyond that to the destruction of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect. All of these are still rampant within our society, and unless we as a society, men and women in responsible positions, can develop a plan for the future, then what legacy do we leave for our children—our children deserve more than what we are giving them—if one of the gifts we bestow on the future is acid rain?

I read some of the same articles that the member for Eglinton referred to on what happened with the Soviet Union and the way it got rid of its leftover products in the generation of atomic energy, and there are a number of things there. Eastern Europe has a major problem with acid rain. It doesn't have the scrubbers and it doesn't seem to be able to afford them now. It's not part of the restoration program for Eastern Europe.

You just have to go to the Black Forest in Germany and you realize how bad it can be. There are degrees of badness. We are in a position where we can have degrees of goodness. You notch upward step by step, and over a period of time when we've developed a model for excellence, a model for environment survival, then we in our society and our children and their children's children into the next and the following centuries will have a legacy to fall back on.

When you look at this motion, it's purely a way of giving the government a chance to move ahead. The government came forward with a news release on March 25, 1992, prior to my resubmitting this resolution to the House for debate. When they put forward this news release, they were able to give an update which indeed corroborates much of the information we've all shared this morning. But the one thing the government has failed to do, and what I see the member for Peterborough and the member for Middlesex also failing to do, is have long-term goals. There is a certain joy in the successes that have been achieved with some of the major problems, but they have not developed a long-term strategy to deal with other, smaller, operators who are causing the problem. Two of the operators are you and me when we drive our cars, so we have to do more to reduce the amount of emissions coming from there.

There isn't anyone in our society today who doesn't expect the best of his or her legislators. If we are to do what we can to protect the environment for the long term, not just concentrate on the garbage problem alone—which has probably consumed Minister Grier for the last year and a half—but expand it into some of the other issues that have to deal with our air and our water, then we will begin to deal with all those issues.

This is a government that has an opportunity now to get rid of the partisan dividing walls that separate us and make us gang up into groups and instead work together for the betterment of all society. We can do something significant about this whole problem of acid rain.

As we move into the next century we have a chance to do something about it. It's not a matter of having confrontation. We've been able to do a great deal with Inco, Falconbridge, Algoma Steel and Ontario Hydro, and the next stage can be one where we work with all those other organizations and companies that are part of the problem today. We know who they are, who is talking to them, who is working with them, who is developing that strategy. That is the intent of my motion.

I do not want to go after the four major polluters. I think they have done a great deal and gone beyond it. Let's keep the dialogue going. Let's not break down the discussion levels. Let us continue to work it through and develop those strategies.

One of the recommendations that came out of the standing committee on general government, which looked at this issue back in 1979, is also worthy of continuing interest. That was that the standing committee on resources development should be given the continuing mandate to review compliance with the Ministry of the Environment's acid gas emission regulations. In our Legislature we have not had a committee looking at this for the last couple of years. It's time we did it. It's time the minister did something. Together we'll come up with further recommendations that do something.

I take pleasure in the reaction I have had from a large number of people in the House this morning. I thank them for the support they have shown and the commitment they continue to display for environmental matters. I sincerely hope that as we proceed into the vote there will be enough people in this House who will cause the minister to move ahead in a positive way.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA NÉGOCIATION COLLECTIVE ENTRE CONSEILS SCOLAIRES ET ENSEIGNANTS

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will deal first with ballot item 5 standing in the name of Mr McGuinty. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

Mr McGuinty has moved second reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

ACID GAS EMISSION CONTROL

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will now deal with ballot item 6 standing in the name of Mr Cousens.

If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

Mr Cousens has moved private member's notice of motion 4. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: All matters relating to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30 this afternoon.

The House recessed at 1205.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BUDGET

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orlino): Over the last few days our caucus has been bringing the public's concerns about the NDP budget to this House, but the NDP refuses to pay attention. Why doesn't the government listen to the housing industry analyst who told us: "Creative accounting belies the NDP's inability to face facts and make tough decisions. The income tax and surtax increases undermine federal efforts to give consumers some spending power"?

The government is also disregarding municipal problems, according to the eastern Ontario mayor who says, "The transfer of funds from the provincial government to municipal government have been cut tremendously, therefore creating even more financial hardship for the municipal level."

The people of the province are trying to send the NDP a message about how to solve the government's financial crisis, but this government just doesn't seem to care. Why is the government ignoring the concerns of a Toronto resident who says, "Once again the single-wage-earning family is being treated unfairly." Does the government not realize the impact that its budget is having on the people of this province? Why is it not listening to the analysts who have called this budget flim-flam?

ORANGEVILLE FARMERS MARKET

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I'd like to bring to the attention of the Legislature today a very special event that takes place every Saturday in my riding of Dufferin-Peel from now until the middle of October. The Orangeville farmers market will open for business this Saturday. Local and regional merchants will present their produce in an open-air market that takes us back to the days of our founding fathers. Farmers, merchants and service clubs working together will make a farmers market which is well worth the drive to Orangeville.

I welcome the members of this House to see a great example of free enterprise at work. The Orangeville farmers market was started last year by an enthusiastic group of individuals who worked long and hard to see their dream of having a market in Orangeville succeed. Every Saturday from now until the middle of October the Orangeville farmers market will be open for business. I would like to wish them much success in their second year and look forward to seeing you all at the market.

RECYCLING

Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East): Environmental issues seem to be never-ending, but Wentworth East has witnessed the solving of a major concern. The Ministry of the Environment, the township of Glanbrook and a community group called FASE, also known as For A Safer Environment, worked together with a private company to

begin the dismantling of the largest tire dump in the province of Ontario.

Almost a million tires were being stored unsafely at P and L Tire Dump in my riding. Residents and politicians were worried that another potential fire situation existed. Other ministries have tried to defuse the problem, but a solution had to be found that included the removal and recycling of these tires in an environmentally correct fashion.

What happened? The Ministry of the Environment found a Canadian firm, Animat, that will ship the tires to its plant in Quebec and turn them into rubber mats. Besides this bid meeting the technical requirements, it was also the lowest of 10 submitted. Therefore, the taxpayers of Ontario received the best value possible. Yes, the Treasurer is very happy, the Ministry of the Environment is happy, the residents are happy and a potentially dangerous situation no longer exists.

It is very simple to sit on the other side of the House and criticize this government for what they consider a lack of action, but I know at first hand that we are working hard to clean up the environment, especially in sensitive sites.

TVONTARIO

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): As the member for Eglinton, I am proud to count TVOntario as one of my constituents. As one of the founding members of Friends of TVOntario, I am particularly proud to salute TVOntario today during Education Week.

TVOntario is at the forefront of educational television, not only here in Ontario but across the world. For the past 20 years it has played an invaluable role in creating educational opportunities in our communities. TVO leads the way in dealing with such topics as literacy, substance abuse, skills training, the environment and multiculturalism, and it responds to the need for commercial-free children's programming reflecting our standards and values. I know many of the members have children who grew up with Polkaroo and Muffy. TVOntario has also come to occupy a very important position in the cultural life of Franco-Ontarians by virtue of the extensive French-language programming provided by La Chaîne française.

The network has continued to evolve in response to changing circumstances and needs. In 1991, TVOntario launched the Teachers' Awards, which honour achievement and innovation in the use of education technology in the classroom. The list of achievements is long, so I believe that during this week, when we are recognizing and celebrating the role of education in this province, it is very fitting that we pay tribute to the unique treasure we have in TVOntario.

VIOLENCE IN PUBLICATIONS

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I bring to the attention of the House a serious and alarming situation which has angered and upset my community of Burlington. A California-based company called Eclipse Comics is currently marketing throughout North America a series of trading cards which are similar to the popular

baseball and hockey variety which children swap and collect, with the difference that these cards feature serial killers and mass murderers.

In addition to illustrations of psychopathic killers, the cards also describe the unique details of their perverse violence. Among other features, there is the story of a charity clown who raped and murdered teenage boys, and then there is the 11-year-old girl who strangled babies. Jeffrey Dahmer and his tale of human dismemberment and cannibalism, together with Charles Ng and many others, are also considered hot items by the manufacturer in this children's card series.

The NDP track record against violent pornography is a poor one. Last year Bob Rae and his Attorney General silently ignored appeals by the people of Burlington to support the police in their crackdown on hard-core pornography, including child pornography, distributed by the Triple-X video stores in their community. At a time when police are currently investigating a series of teenage murders that may be linked to a serial killer in the Niagara Peninsula, it is unthinkable that such cards are being marketed as a desired collectible for impressionable children.

My community is angry and concerned about these cards. I call on the Premier and his government to do everything within their power to block the entry of these perverse trading cards into Ontario and to ensure that they do not find their way into the children's playgrounds of our province.

TVONTARIO

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): This is Education Week and I would like to join my friends from the other two parties in praising the work of TVOntario. As a former educator, I've had the benefit of the fine programming TVOntario creates. On many occasions, I have used all or parts of shows to make a class more interesting or relevant to the students. Students use all their senses to learn, and TVOntario provides thought-provoking programming that draws the viewer's interest, whether it is in history, science, languages or philosophy. Students of all ages can learn from the programs on TVOntario.

Just the other day I was watching a program on physics. It was about surface tension. The instructor said that a paper clip could float on water. My children were interested in this, so we took a glass of water and they floated paper clips. Some eventually sank, but their interest was definitely stimulated.

The programming is suitable for all viewers. Who hasn't watched Elwy Yost on Saturday night interview actors and actresses about their roles in films and the history of films? What child hasn't watched Polka Dot Door and been fascinated by Polkaroo? Their history show, Origins, not only was educational but helped bind the country together by showing viewers that all parts of Canada share a common history.

In closing, I'd ask that all Ontarians continue to support TVOntario and its fine programs.

TEACHERS' DISPUTE CONFLIT DES ENSEIGNANTS

Mr Gilles E. Morin (Carleton East): For 24 days, high school students in Ottawa-Carleton have been out of school as a result of the Carleton Board of Education teachers' strike. Nearly 15,000 students in total have been affected by this strike, which began on April 2, when 12,000 teachers first walked out.

The ensuing negotiations between the school board and the teachers collapsed late yesterday afternoon. Now that things have reached an impasse, what does the Minister of Education plan to do to help solve this problem? If the strike continues, there is the possibility that students will lose their year. Many irate parents in my constituency of Carleton East are concerned that their children will not be able to make up the lost curriculum. The longer we wait, the further we jeopardize the future of our youth.

Cette génération va souffrir de notre incapacité de résoudre la grève des enseignants. Il est déraisonnable que nos enfants paient de leur éducation ces négociations infructueuses et cette grève prolongée. Nous devons chercher une meilleure solution.

To ensure that members are kept abreast of this issue, I would ask the Minister of Education to make daily announcements in this House.

Je fais confiance à l'honorable ministre de l'Éducation. Je m'attends à ce qu'il prenne toutes les mesures nécessaires en vue d'encourager les intéressés à reprendre les pourparlers afin que sous peu les élèves retournent en classe.

1340

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I'd like to speak today about the cancer society of Ontario. Last weekend, on Sunday, I had the opportunity to bicycle some 15 kilometres to raise money for cancer.

Interjection: Was there a motor on it?

Mr McLean: There was no motor. It was an interesting exercise, so to speak.

I was very pleased to be part of that great ride for cancer, because there are so many volunteers who put their time into raising funds for that very worthwhile cause. I felt it a real privilege and an honour to be part of it.

I remember when Terry Fox crossed this great province. From the east he got as far as Thunder Bay. I was in Thunder Bay the day they unveiled the monument in honour of Terry Fox and I thought that was a pretty exciting day. When Terry was going through Orillia, I had the opportunity to invite him and welcome him to the city as he was passing by. As a matter of fact, the Sanderson Monument Co in Orillia is the one that dedicated and put most of the granite in that monument on the Trans-Canada Highway in honour of Terry Fox.

I compliment the volunteers in this province. I know many have had friends who have died of cancer. I hope everyone here will take part in it and have more influence, because cancer can be beaten.

ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): I stand in this House today to call attention to Elizabeth Fry Week being celebrated this week until Sunday. The Elizabeth Fry societies in Ontario are joining together to celebrate over 40 years of providing services for women in conflict with the law.

As members may know, the first agency was established in Kingston in 1949. The agency was named after the 19th century English reformer of the penal system whose work among the women and children of Newgate prison began a long tradition of addressing the special needs of incarcerated women. Other Elizabeth Fry agencies were established in Toronto and Ottawa in the 1950s.

A particularly important inspiration to the establishment of these agencies was a passionate speech on the plight of women in the criminal justice system given by Agnes Macphail, one of the first female members of Parliament.

Today in Ontario there are six autonomous agencies, plus two in development. There are 19 others across the country. The Ontario agencies are represented collectively by the Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario.

Events this week are being held in Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa, Brampton, Sudbury and Toronto. Included in these events is the screening of the documentary *Locked In-Locked Out*, which describes the situation of incarcerated women.

I would like to acknowledge the important work that Elizabeth Fry societies do in Ontario. They work with women in conflict with the law who are often women who are poor, unemployed, undereducated and single mothers. Many of the women they work with are also abused as children. Elizabeth Fry societies also work to increase our awareness of issues concerning women and the law.

I encourage all members to participate in activities this week.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Before continuing with routine proceedings, I would invite all members to welcome to our midst this afternoon, seated in the Speaker's gallery, Mr Fatu Vaili Afamasaga, who is the Speaker of the Parliament of Western Samoa. Welcome.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

JOBS ONTARIO TRAINING FUND

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): One week ago today the Treasurer stood up in this House and delivered a budget with three clear directions for Ontario: jobs, preserving services and controlling the deficit.

He told us that services are not maintained by uncontrolled spending. A service that is not cost-effective is a service at risk, precisely because it is not cost-effective. In other words, the social wellbeing of this province and the wise use of tax dollars go hand in hand.

The Jobs Ontario training fund I am announcing today reflects expressly this principle and launches a direct attack on the recession. It also reflects this government's

belief that business talent plus the tremendous human potential of Ontario's workforce is the combination that will bring this province out of the recession and into prosperity.

The principles of employment equity are integral to the Jobs Ontario training fund. We shall be working with various organizations representing the racial minority community, aboriginal peoples, people with disabilities, francophones and women to ensure that the Jobs Ontario training fund will truly provide employment and training opportunities for the participating long-term unemployed, from a wide range of communities.

All of Ontario will benefit from this strategy, especially our young people, many of whom feel that right now they have no real alternative to unemployment.

The Jobs Ontario training fund is a three-year, \$1.1-billion initiative to get the long-term unemployed trained and back to work.

After the 1981-82 recession, people forced out of work and on to welfare stayed right there. Right now, we have over one million people in Ontario, families, neighbours and friends, reliant on social assistance. Not only is the hardship this involves unacceptable, but we literally can no longer afford this tragic waste of human potential.

The Jobs Ontario training fund will also make it easier for parents of young children, especially single parents, to get back to work by creating up to 20,000 subsidized child care spaces. Initially the government of Ontario will pay 100% of the approved costs of this expansion, both capital costs and fee subsidies. This action will be very important for municipalities and other funding partners, who are usually responsible for meeting 20% of the costs, as you know. This will relieve them of a heavy financial pressure.

For employers, a key element of this program will be the training credit. The costs of hiring and training new employees are significant, and especially so for small businesses. Now employers will be eligible for a training credit of up to \$10,000 for each newly hired program participant over one year. At least half of that will be used to train the new worker coming into the workplace thanks to this program. The rest, however, may be used to train existing employees.

I want to stress that we are not talking about wage subsidies here. The Jobs Ontario training fund will not be paying the wages of participants in the program. We shall instead be investing in their training and in the training of current employees.

The Jobs Ontario training fund will go even farther. If an employer is ready to hire a person under the program but that person lacks some generic or specific skills, she or he will be eligible for pre-employment training before actually moving into the workplace. Pre-employment training will itself be tailored to specific employee and employer needs. It can include communication and computer skills and upgrading of the basic literacy, math and second-language skills needed for jobs in a complex and changing economy. Pre-employment training will be tailored to specific employee and employer needs.

This morning at George Brown College I announced that as of today, under this program, the province is making

available over 1,100 training spaces in seven centres across Ontario, in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Windsor, Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Toronto. You can imagine how pleased I was, as minister of both Skills Development and Colleges and Universities, to make this announcement at a site where my two portfolios intersect. Thousands more such places will be available throughout the entire province by midsummer, and the training base will be expanded to include other community training agencies.

To streamline the administration of this training and of the program itself, we will be supporting a network of community "brokers" across the province. These brokers will be local and community-based: municipalities, chambers of commerce, local labour councils, community colleges, other information and referral centres and so on. They will select and then connect employers, training services and applicants, determine child care and other support needs and monitor program development. There will also be an economic renewal initiative to this program and that will be aimed at supporting specific projects which promote recovery and boost employment.

1350

Focusing on large employers and industry-wide activities, we will work with private companies, unions and community groups to encourage large-scale hiring and skills upgrading. We will also assist small local ventures, support feasibility studies for community business projects, and through co-ops, non-profit groups, entrepreneurs and native business development plans, we will encourage jobs in areas with vulnerable private sector economies.

I think it is clear that the Jobs Ontario training fund is a new departure from the make-work projects of the past. Employers will be buying into this program because, again, it makes good economic sense, because it helps them develop the highly skilled workforce they will need to have that competitive edge. UI exhaustees and social assistance recipients will also want the program because, more than anything, they want and need to get back to work.

As the Treasurer announced last week, the Jobs Ontario training fund is only the first of a three-part strategy to create tens of thousands of new jobs and to support tens of thousands of existing jobs this year and in the future. The two other parts of this program of course are the Jobs Ontario capital fund and the Jobs Ontario homes fund.

All told, this government will be training employed and unemployed workers to the tune of \$930 million this year, an increase of 24% over last year. This is the most Ontario has ever invested in training workers, the largest proportion of the overall provincial budget ever used for training in Ontario. On top of that, we've also undertaken to reform, as you know, our training system. That will in all likelihood become a model for other provinces and other countries.

This government knows where Ontario's strengths lie: in its people, in its business people and the people they employ. The Jobs Ontario training fund is a commitment to them all.

Mr Speaker, if you'll permit me, as a final word I'd like to recognize the deputy minister of the Ontario Train-

ing and Adjustment Board project and the person who is chiefly in charge of this particular project, Joan Andrew, and their staffs, who are sitting in the members' gallery and who have spent a great amount of work developing a most imaginative program which will benefit all of us in Ontario in the future.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): I join with others in this House in expressing my concern about events in the city of Toronto. I acknowledge that many elements of our justice system are having trouble adapting to the multicultural face of our province, although progress is being made in a number of areas. Police and police services boards are trying hard to implement employment equity and race relations training, but there is an important role that others within the justice system can play.

I am announcing today some initiatives that we have been working on for some time, in consultation with community groups, to respond to the need for greater knowledge, sensitivity and skill in this area.

I would like to announce the establishment of a race relations unit in the Ministry of the Attorney General to aggressively implement anti-racism training and hold the ministry accountable for rapid progress on race relations initiatives.

This unit will set and evaluate short-term and long-term direction for the ministry's anti-racism initiatives. In particular, this unit will expedite the delivery of already tested race relations training for crown attorneys and court staff. It will ensure the ministry's law reform initiatives and programs are sensitive to racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on the administration of criminal law, court services, family law and services to children, youth and the elderly. It will work with the community to identify community-based initiatives that reflect the needs of racial minority groups.

This unit is being established in response to long-standing community concerns about the barriers faced by racial minorities in the justice system. It is another step in keeping with the ministry's mandate to provide accessible, affordable, representative and responsive justice services for all Ontarians.

In addition, we believe we must look at the jury selection process. It is important that jury panels, that is, the individuals considered eligible for jury duty, include all members of our society, and it is important that the selection process for the final 12 jury members for a given trial is fair. It is critical that jurors are not only impartial but are perceived to be impartial.

Achieving this goal involves answering a number of questions, such as, should residents of Ontario who do not yet have full citizenship be eligible for jury duty? Do the present methods of paying or dealing with the expenses of jurors and/or the lack of wage protection make it unduly onerous for low-income persons to serve as jurors? Are there more steps that we need to take to ensure that visible minorities, aboriginal peoples and persons with disabilities can serve as jurors? Should we consider additional methods of picking those who receive jury notices beyond reliance

upon assessment rolls, because this may effectively exclude eligible candidates who move frequently?

I have instructed the Ontario Juries Act review team that is presently looking at the Juries Act to provide me with answers to these and other questions within 60 days. I will be working with the Solicitor General to identify steps to ensure that jury selection for coroner's juries is an open, formal process so that the goal of broad representation is achieved here as well.

While the province determines who is available for jury duty, it is the federal government that, through the Criminal Code, regulates the selection of the jury itself in criminal trials. At present, the federal government is proposing legislation to amend the Criminal Code regarding jury selection. We are calling on the federal government to eliminate any possibility that visible minorities are being excluded without cause as jurors in criminal trials. It is imperative that the jury selection process under the Criminal Code be fair.

We are asking the federal Minister of Justice to consider including a statement of principle that it is inappropriate to eliminate jurors on grounds such as race, religion or political belief. We are also asking the federal Minister of Justice to look at the entire way criminal juries are selected, including the ability of jurors to be disqualified by counsel at trial for other than valid causes. This will involve examining the use of peremptory challenges.

The initiatives we have outlined are an important step, but we must recognize that real change will take some time. While we work hard on these initiatives, we ask all people in Ontario to keep the public peace. In these trying times, we ask for tolerance and for understanding.

1400

POLICE USE OF FORCE

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I rise to inform this House that I met this morning in Ottawa with my federal counterpart, the Honourable Doug Lewis, federal Solicitor General. We discussed a number of items of mutual concern focusing on subsection 25(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada. This section, often referred to as the fleeing felon clause, deals with the amount of force that police are allowed to use in the pursuit of a fleeing felon.

This morning's meeting followed my previous communication with the Honourable Kim Campbell, federal Minister of Justice. I urged her, on behalf of this government, to amend the Criminal Code so that police officers can only use lethal force in the protection of their lives or for the protection of the lives of others.

I am happy to announce that in response to the vigorous efforts of this government, the federal Minister of Justice has announced this morning that she will be introducing amendments to the Criminal Code within one month. This government will continue to cooperate with the federal government to support this important initiative.

I am also pleased to inform the House that my ministry has taken significant steps towards the development of a regulation under the Police Services Act dealing with use of force by police officers in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. This matter has been given the highest

priority in my ministry. It will be dealt with expeditiously and thoroughly.

Within a month I will be releasing for public comment a draft regulation on the use of force, including issues on training, accountability and the use of less than lethal force. After comments are received we will quickly enact a regulation that balances the need for effective law enforcement with police accountability.

The police force and the public agree that there are many situations where the police need to subdue or arrest a suspect, and a gun should not be the only available option. We must make available the use of alternatives to firearms so that the police need not resort to deadly force in these situations. Other jurisdictions use these kinds of devices rather successfully, and we must implement them in order to reduce or eliminate deaths.

This course of action, I am pleased to say, has the full support of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Ontario, the chief of the Metropolitan Toronto Police, and other police forces as well which have participated in discussions over these past number of months.

Public confidence is indeed the foundation of effective community policing. Preserving the peace and preventing crime are goals of quality policing. These goals must be achieved with the least risk to the police and to the public that they serve.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I ask consent for a minute and a half. I don't have a written statement. I made a statement earlier this morning because I wanted to get a message out publicly early on in the day. I'm sure that people will know, and I want to inform members, of a couple of things.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous agreement? Agreed.

RACE RELATIONS

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will be very brief. I've asked Stephen Lewis to consult widely with members of the Legislature, with members of the opposition, as well as with members of the governments and members of the community, with the police, with everyone, with respect to future steps that we should take with respect to the criminal justice system and with respect to the problems of systemic discrimination in many of our institutions. I would ask members to cooperate in that consultation in as positive a spirit as is possible, recognizing that people can express their views and have differences of opinion but that my appointment of Mr Lewis was done in a constructive way, given his experience.

I can tell the House that I spoke with the Prime Minister this morning. The Prime Minister was enormously supportive of the steps we have been trying to take and of the work that's been done by different levels of government, and we're working in full cooperation at all levels of government in this area.

I also want to inform the House that I have decided today to appoint the member for St Andrew-St Patrick as my parliamentary assistant. The member comes to this task with enormous personal experience in the field of education as well as with the respect of the members of this House. I'm sure she'll have your support as she undertakes this work.

Finally, I want to advise the House, as I'm sure people already know, that I will be away, starting tomorrow morning, in Japan for a week. I want to say to members that I know I go with all of your best wishes, and I feel that when I'm there I will be speaking for all of Ontario as we encourage stronger and more vibrant relations with the people of Japan.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, there was agreement by the three House leaders that, because of the nature of the statements today and the fact we did go over, each opposition party would have 10 minutes to respond.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Agreed? Agreed.

RESPONSES

JOBS ONTARIO TRAINING FUND

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I hope the Premier returns from that trip with a bell for the chief whip of the government.

I'd like to congratulate the Minister of Skills Development for finally announcing a program of skills training that's going to help an underprivileged group of people in our society, the people who need this program the most, a program we've certainly been asking the minister to come forward with. On first glance it looks like a good program.

As the minister understands, people who find themselves on unemployment insurance and social assistance find themselves particularly disadvantaged as they are now out of the habit of getting to work. They start to lose their job skills. They start to lose their skills in trying to apply for a job and gaining access to a job, let alone any particular skills of work available today. As the minister knows, jobs are changing so fast that we all are going to have to upgrade our skills training.

I hope the minister will also maybe find a way to integrate some of the existing programs that are out there and have been proven successful, not just abandon those programs and the people who have supported and built those programs in their attempts to help the clients out there.

I particularly want to salute the minister for highlighting today the principles of employment equity as applied to this program, something we will all have to do in all our programs in government today.

I would like to just ask the minister that he ensure that the local brokers are accountable to the government and to the hard-earned taxpayers' money being spent and to make sure we choose the appropriate brokers in the municipality that all the municipalities and local agencies will work with.

As a last point, I also want to say that I hope the minister will ensure not only that the employers are accountable, as they should be, but also that they're given the

freedom to supply the training that is most appropriate to their workers and their workplace.

RACE RELATIONS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): This government seems to have been demonstrated into action. We must again maybe await another demonstration to push the government into another action. We hope it's not the case that each time we have a demonstration we see some action out of them.

The Premier announced—you have heard and I welcome the announcement—earlier today the appointment of Zanana Akande and Stephen Lewis as his special advisers to deal with the race relations problems we have in Ontario.

The issue the Premier wishes this task force to address is not new; it's been around a long time. Even the Minister of Citizenship herself recently commented on "underlying racial tension just below the surface," so it should not have caught this government so much by surprise that it erupted in these very tough economic times.

Last year the government announced its anti-racism strategy, and many of the announced initiatives still have not been implemented. Programs like the minority youth project at the Ministry of Education seem to be at a standstill.

Legislation, as we said, that has been passed since 1990 and has been there for two years has not been implemented. This is in regard to the Police Services Act. We have had public consultation on this and we have just heard recently an announcement that this is now coming forward. It's been a long time and the wait has caused many lives and visions and dreams to be destroyed. The community has been calling for these reports, it seems without any avail. We hope this is an action.

I feel today's initiative is a positive step, and may indeed be the catalyst, towards getting communities working together to address this very serious issue. But while I have the greatest respect for Mr Lewis and of course for my colleague Mrs Akande and for their abilities, I believe this process would have been more effective and representative if it had involved members of diverse groups representing various communities and speaking for themselves.

1410

For example, the Liberal government Lewis Race Relations and Policing Task Force engaged representatives of many communities who worked together in a positive manner that led to real change in Ontario. I had hoped the Premier would have at least asked the former Lieutenant Governor—I don't know if he's available—whose credentials, as we know, are undeniable, to be involved in this review process. In fact, he was apparently interested in doing so. I was in Senegal with him a month ago and he showed great interest in and concern on where our community is going.

If members of the Legislature are going to be involved in this process, I would have preferred an all-party process approaching this issue in a non-partisan way. Mrs Akande and Mr Lewis, who are quite credible people, are also members of the New Democratic Party, and it may take a

week or so to climb over those perceptions. I know they have the ability to do so. We have four weeks, and I'm sure by the time six weeks or seven weeks have passed by, when the Premier will take a look at that, the concerns many young people have will not have been addressed. Later on I hope to raise some questions in the House in that regard and we may make some suggestions.

I am convinced of the sincerity of the Premier that he wants this thing to be resolved. We hope we can have some tranquil moments of peace during which we can sit down reasonably and resolve this issue. It's a painful issue. It's a real issue. Some of us have not yet come to grips with that, that, yes, there is racism within our society and there is racism in all societies. We have a beautiful country and we'd like to make sure it continues, and we can improve upon that.

The Attorney General today announced of course his race relations and Ontario Juries Act reform. I wonder what minister will get up tomorrow and announce an anti-racism strategy in that ministry. It is not a ministry problem; it's a province-wide problem. We don't want pockets of anti-racism groups being developed within ministries, because we will then feel it's only that minister who has the problem.

I have always fought over the years to take a serious look at the Ministry of Correctional Services, which has shown racism and exploitation of many minorities in that group. I hope the minister, whom I have full confidence in now that he's been demonstrated into some action, will look at that ministry.

I have gotten concerns about the Ministry of Revenue over the years. I'd like them to look at that.

Therefore, let us not be demonstrating each day another ministry setting up an anti-racism strategy, but let us make sure that the entire province and entire government are making sure we don't have racism within our government.

I want to say that the concerns we have and the concerns we will be addressing today are not temporary situations. Today we have a demonstration, and I know we all, as legislators, would like to see a very peaceful, democratic demonstration. I know that will happen.

There are many reports, Mr Premier, that are sitting on desks and on shelves. We don't want to put another one on the shelf and then have to dust it off later on. Let's dust those off right now. They are telling you that many visible minorities are being denied the access to trades and professions to then have access into the workforce. We don't need another bureaucracy set up to tell us what to do. I could write the report Lewis and Akande will bring forward. It's easy. Take all those reports, implement them and enforce them, and I think we will have a good province.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Further responses?

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): I'd just like to take the extra minute to join with my colleague the member for Scarborough North in thanking the Premier for his statement today. Those who had occasion to see his appearance at the press conference at 10 o'clock may share my view that the tone and substance of his remarks were

absolutely appropriate. Our party wants to join with him in supporting the efforts that Mr Lewis and Mrs Akande are going to undertake, understanding well the difficulty and challenge they present.

I thought one of the most telling observations the Premier made and one which I share is that, with all the anxieties that underlie this series of difficulties we confront as a province, there is none the less a challenge and an opportunity for all communities in Ontario to begin to work effectively again together in order to make this the province we believe it can truly be. For our party, this aspect of the issue has no partisan characteristic.

The Speaker: Responses from the third party.

JOBS ONTARIO TRAINING FUND

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I am responding to the Minister of Skills Development with regard to his Jobs Ontario training fund. I would like to begin to compliment him and to advise him that our party certainly agrees and supports the initiative and we certainly want our social assistance recipients back in the workforce. In today's environment, more than ever before, the best social policy for anybody is a job.

Mr Minister, I want you to know that with regard to the \$10,000 credits for training when an employer creates a new position and hires a social assistance recipient, there are some problems that we want to draw to your attention and that we hope you will deal with, in our usual way of giving you the best advice we can. Our question there would be, will the private sector create new jobs, and what is the incentive? We want this to happen. Is this good enough?

The press release states 32,000 jobs, but the budget stated last week that this is probably equal to some 10,800 full-year positions. I think that should be clear, if we are looking at full-time jobs—and I think we should be looking at full-time jobs—so that we don't raise the expectations of the public beyond what we can reasonably do.

I am disappointed in one regard, \$50 million to go the administrative costs associated with community brokers. I don't really like the term "brokers." I think we should be using as far as possible the existing community industrial training committee infrastructure, because in many communities they have been particularly successful, and where they have the expertise, they ought to be used as far as possible. That would give a boost to people who have helped us during the tough times and haven't been as successful as they would like to be. The staff has the expertise, and it's \$50 million, or at least part of that, if you take my advice, that will probably be part of the money that could be saved and we could put it to other good uses in job creation.

With regard to child care, I have to say, Mr Minister—this will not be new coming from me—I think it is unacceptable that we learn today that the subsidies will only go to non-profit centres. What if non-profit centres are at capacity in a community? Will the individual wanting to access the program miss out? If that's the case, I think this government should look very carefully at bragging about parental choice and accessibility. I would say, Mr Minister,

you should be looking at child care subsidies where spaces occur and where they're close to the person's place of employment, no matter what.

We should remember that once this three-year program has expired, of the subsidy costs that are 100% now, if we keep the same subsidy program, 20% of the cost will go to the municipalities, and they should be consulted on this at this point in time.

I would like to emphasize that governments should not be in the business of creating jobs, that government should provide a favourable regulatory and tax-competitive environment so the private sector can create the jobs. On that point, Mr Minister, I would encourage you to speak to the Minister of Labour and get those labour law reforms off the table.

Remember at the same time in your other capacity, Mr Minister, that is, as Minister of Colleges and Universities, you and your colleague the Minister of Education should be looking equally hard at creating meaningful training programs and apprenticeship programs in our schools, our colleges and our universities. Today our young people, no matter who they are, those people who are out on the streets right now are looking for jobs. That's their first goal.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I would like to respond briefly to the statement by the Attorney General. I'm pleased to see that the Attorney General is realizing the importance of the jury system in Ontario, and I certainly applaud his efforts to ensure that trials are abundantly fair and that the juries represent the whole cross-section of the community. I'm pleased he's taking that initiative.

POLICE USE OF FORCE

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I would also like to respond briefly to the statement by the Solicitor General. I'm pleased that the initiative he's undertaking has the support of police and police associations. I hope that in the course of the work he's doing, he will continue to involve the public in a dialogue and involve those who are knowledgeable in law enforcement in drafting the regulations he's attempting to draft.

1420

RACE RELATIONS

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): There isn't any doubt that the city of Toronto lost its innocence with what happened on Monday night, and there isn't one of us who isn't genuinely concerned with what happened and how we can make sure that it doesn't happen again.

I commend the Premier for his appointment of Canada's former ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis, to the important and sensitive responsibility he has given him to try to work out some remedies, some recommendations and some approaches that we here in Ontario might be able to use.

What Mr Lewis may well come up with are suggestions that many of us have had, but maybe it's just an opportunity for those ideas to be tabled and given a fresh

start. In fact, what I'd like to see is that all of us have a fresh start on that and that it gives everyone, all parties alike and all people who make up our province, a chance to say, "We're part of making this a continued wonderful place to live."

I'd like to share part of the recommendation by the member for Scarborough North and also invite the Premier and hope, through his giving this responsibility to Mr Lewis, that the Premier then would also consider involvement by the member for Scarborough North and members from our party so that this does not have partisan overtones to it. There is nothing partisan in what's going on within our community, and if we're in a position to all work together to address it and resolve it, then we'll be a step farther.

I have some concerns about the appointment of the member for St Andrew-St Patrick to her special responsibility inasmuch as there are immediate issues with youth that can be addressed. Certainly in the budget we saw last week there was no reference specifically to employment opportunities for young people. Young people in February made up 18.7% of the unemployed. Young people between 16 and 24 are the largest single group looking for work, not just university students but young people of all types.

Last year this province reduced by 800 the number of jobs for young people through the Experience program and other programs. What we can do immediately, before the heat of summer and the heat of May, is begin with remedies for young people to find opportunities for fulfilment, for work so that they have something to do and to benefit by.

I also suggest that what happened here in the House—24 hours ago this chamber was in an uproar. A lot of things were said that shouldn't have been said by members of all parties. We've all had a chance to cool off since then. What I would like to see today involves the need for a cooling-off period for this city as well.

This afternoon another demonstration is planned for outside this Legislature, a demonstration that has the potential to be yet another powder keg for unrest in this city. The first step in trying to address the concerns we all have might well be that the Premier—and I ask this as sincerely as I can—please ask the organizers of today's rally to consider postponing their assembly until tensions in this city have eased.

Metro council and the people who represent this city have called for a postponement of today's demonstration. They didn't make that plea because they wanted to interfere with anyone's right to peaceful assembly but, like all of us, they have a genuine concern about the safety of this city and the people in it. I sincerely hope, since there is still time, that the Premier will do what he can within his power to try for a postponement of this assembly.

I know that Mr Harris, the member for Nipissing, and our party want to be involved in facing the future needs that face us immediately as we address all the concerns that are coming out of the worries we all have about our city today. May we resolve them by working together to address any racial concerns that are there, but also the need that underlies the concerns of those others who were involved in

the demonstrations and problems we saw on Monday evening.

We will not hide from this responsibility. We will do everything we can to work together to address it and resolve it.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I would just like to say very briefly in the very short period of time that we live in one of the greatest countries, if not the greatest country, in the world. This province has often been recognized as having some of the greatest resources, but I think the greatest resource we have is the people themselves. I think if we approach this issue and this problem and concern in a truly non-partisan way, people of goodwill and generosity of spirit can work together to make this province and this country even a better place in which to live.

MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Mr Speaker, I'm rising on a point of privilege. The point of privilege arises out of events which took place at the Ministry of Housing this morning. I believe what took place compromised my rights as a member and my responsibility to represent appropriately my constituents of York Centre, and in particular the residents of the town of Richmond Hill.

Just to give you a brief bit of background, for many months now the people of Richmond Hill and the local council of the town have had some concerns about the development of and placement of so-called social housing or affordable housing in their town. On January 7, the mayor and a councillor of the town of Richmond Hill wrote to the Minister of Housing, the Honourable Evelyn Gigantes, requesting an opportunity for a meeting. Because there was no response to that letter they asked me to intervene, and subsequently I wrote to the minister to change her mind and intervene and meet with my constituents and the representatives of the town. The minister replied to me that she had indeed arranged to have a meeting, and that meeting took place this morning.

I was invited by the town councillors and the residents of the community to participate in that meeting. Yesterday, a member of my staff phoned the secretary of the minister to advise the minister that I indeed would be attending, along with my constituents and the mayor and councillors of the town of Richmond Hill.

I arrived at the meeting moments after it began. Indeed the mayor of Richmond Hill, William Bell, was introducing the delegation and as I walked in he introduced me as "Greg Sorbara, our MPP." At that time I simply said, "I apologize for my lateness," at which time the minister said to me: "That's okay. You're not invited to this meeting anyway." At that point I excused myself from the room and left and returned to my office.

I have no comment to make on the manners of the minister. What I simply say is that if I am not allowed to participate in a delegation of municipal officials from my own riding and residents of the community to put forward a position to the minister, if I am excluded from that process, I simply say that my right and my responsibility to represent my community have been compromised.

To do her justice, I will conclude by saying that before we began the proceedings this afternoon the minister came to apologize for the way in which she ejected me from the meeting. I simply say to you, sir, that if it is the policy of this government that members are not allowed to participate in those sorts of meetings, the minister has simply missed the point. I don't comment on the manners. What I complain to you about, sir, is what has been violated: my responsibility and my right to represent my constituents when they are attempting to speak to this government. I ask you to rule accordingly.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): If I may, in response to the member for York Centre, as he has indicated, I quite regret what happened this morning. I must confess that I felt very startled when he arrived in the room. I had heard in fact—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Will the minister take her seat, please. Minister.

Hon Ms Gigantes: I was very startled by the entrance of the member for York Centre, and it is my regret that at that time I did not walk out with him to chat with him. I sought him out as soon as I could to speak to him when I arrived at the Legislature and to explain to him what had happened.

We did have a very good meeting with the representatives from the municipality of Richmond Hill. I think it was very helpful for me to be able to fully hear their points of view openly and freely discuss with them. I told them at the time that I would be pleased to discuss with Mr Sorbara the matters that we had under discussion at that time.

1430

The Speaker: To the member for York Centre and to the Minister of Housing, the matter you raise is one which obviously is of concern both to you and indeed to many members of the House. Because it is something which occurred outside the precinct, it is not within the Speaker's responsibility to rule that you have a prima facie case of privilege. I think that what the member draws to our attention is either a matter of policy with an individual minister or a matter of courtesy, but unfortunately it is not anything that is against the standing orders or rules of this House and thus I cannot be of any assistance to the member at this time.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): On a point of privilege, and I think I speak of the privileges of most members of the House, Mr Speaker: We understand the ruling you've made, which is traditional with the authorities under which you're obliged to govern, but this matter is so important and represents a decision taken by a very senior and experienced minister of the government. I hope the leader of the government will express his view today about whether he regards that conduct as proper in the circumstances. I ask him to do it today because I am aware he will be away from the Legislature for some period of time and I would like the matter cleared up as quickly as possible.

The Speaker: The member raises what is not a matter of privilege, but indeed the information has now been imparted and all in the chamber and beyond are well aware of the issue and the feelings.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Later on in question period we will be questioning the Premier about his announcement today and the very serious matters that have taken place in the city of Toronto, as well as some taxation matters.

I want to begin by asking a question on an issue that really has a much simpler solution. All of the newspapers in the Toronto area today have reported an apparent showdown in Toronto and elsewhere around the province on this troubling issue of Sunday shopping. We hear on the one hand that many stores intend to open their doors. We hear that the Solicitor General does not intend to enforce the law with a great deal of vigour.

The Premier has, over the course of the 18 months of his administration, tried to portray himself as a leader who is flexible and who is open to responding to changing conditions. Indeed, when he changed his position on public automobile insurance, this party acknowledged that and celebrated that.

I simply put it to the Premier now, given that the Solicitor General does not intend to enforce the law as it stands now and given that 70% or perhaps 75% of the people think there should be freedom of choice on this issue, will the Premier announce today in this House, before he scuttles off to the Far East, that he intends to put into place a moratorium to allow freedom of choice and to continue to protect retail workers in the way that currently exists under the law?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I've been in this House for about 10 years and I think that for many of those years governments of all political stripes, sizes and abilities have struggled with this issue. The member knows that full well. I want to say to the honourable member that this House, this Legislature, has considered this question over a number of years.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): You guys aren't any better than anybody else.

Hon Mr Rae: I've learned very quickly that I'm not better than anyone else, I say to the member for St George-St David.

Mr Scott: I want that in writing.

Hon Mr Rae: I'll put it in writing and send it over to you by way of parliamentary note.

I want to say to the member for York Centre who refers to the word "showdown," I think in ways that are typical of Liberal Party research, drawn from a headline in one of the daily newspapers today, that over a period of many years there have been occasions when retailers for one reason or another have decided to do things in the way they want to do them, regardless of the law that has been passed. I would say to the honourable member that we

have an obligation as a government to indicate that the law is in place.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: I'm happy to ask the Solicitor General and others to continue to meet with members of the retail industry and with others who are involved in and concerned about this issue, but the law is there and he could hardly expect me to stand in my place unilaterally on one day and say that all by myself I'm somehow unilaterally going to suspend the operation of the law. There is a process in place. The law is in place.

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: That is the direction of the government.

Mr Sorbara: I'm not asking the Premier to unilaterally do anything.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): On a point of order, or perhaps a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: The member for York Centre has either said or suggested strongly that I, as Solicitor General, have somehow altered the question of enforcement with respect to this issue.

The Speaker: That's not a point of order. It certainly is a point of debate. We are in the middle of question period. No doubt there will be an opportunity to question and an opportunity to respond.

Hon Mr Pilkey: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. The member's remark attributed to me, which is incorrect, should and did merit correction to the House and to the people of the province.

The Speaker: Members can correct their own records but not the records of anyone else.

Mr Sorbara: The problem with the Solicitor General is that he more and more desperately tries to defend a piece of legislation that isn't working in the province. I want to simply say to the Premier that it is not our intention or suggestion that you act in some sort of unilateral or dictatorial way. We are aware the cabinet is considering a new approach to Sunday shopping. What we are suggesting you do, in order to avoid the kind of confrontation that is existing, is simply to announce that during this period of reconsideration of the virtually unilateral ban on Sunday shopping, you are putting into place a moratorium on prosecutions.

The Premier will be aware that such a moratorium existed in the province for about nine months as a result of the decision of the Divisional Court. I want to say to the Premier that this ban on Sunday shopping is very costly to the taxpayers of the province. It costs several million dollars in scarce police resources to enforce it. It costs several million dollars within the government to maintain the legislative framework to keep the stores closed. What we are saying to you is that if the words in your budget mean anything and you are really anxious to allow business, small and large, to flourish in this province, would you simply announce today to the public or some time before this Sunday that there shall be a moratorium and there will not be prosecutions when stores open this Sunday?

Hon Mr Rae: I appreciate the legal advice from the member for York Centre who, I think, probably practised only slightly longer than I did before being called to an even higher profession, that of a member of the Legislature.

I would say to the honourable member that while we may disagree on some issues with respect to this question, I would hope that we would at least recognize that there is a slight difference between taking the kind of step you have suggested, when a Divisional Court or when a court has made a certain decision, and in the present circumstance, when the law has been passed.

The law has been widely respected up until now, in recent months. It has been in place. The applications for tourist exemptions are proceeding before the Ontario Municipal Board. The decision by the municipal board with respect to Windsor has been made. I think there's a clear signal to people that there's a way to work this through, and that's something that, obviously as the first minister of the province, I have an obligation to stand in my place on this Thursday and simply reiterate.

1440

Mr Sorbara: I simply say to the Premier, if he thinks costly applications for exemptions, with appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board, are the way in which he, his government and his Treasurer presume to simplify and unclog the regulatory burden that is now being borne by our businesses, both small and large, retail and otherwise, he hasn't even understood the written words that were in the Treasurer's budget.

At this point over 70% of the people of this province believe there should be freedom of choice on this matter. When this Legislature considered the ban that is currently in place, there was really only one rather small trade union that represented the voice of the people who were against Sunday shopping: the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union. The Premier's stance and his government's stance simply represent the last vestige of the anti forces on the Sunday shopping issue in the province.

The Premier has spoken eloquently about a new era of labour relations in this province, that labour is taking a new approach, that business must take a new approach and that government will as well. Will he call in the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union and simply say it is time now to forgo their opposition, to let commerce proceed and to let freedom of choice dominate when it comes to this question? Will he do that now?

Hon Mr Rae: I think it's fair to say I will be happy to meet with members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, with the retail and wholesale workers and with workers who are not organized, as well as with leaders in the retail trade. I will tell the member that even over the last five months, I have had meetings with those individuals, as well as with the presidents and leaders of the large retail chains across the province. We continue to meet on a regular basis, as does the Solicitor General, and we continue to monitor the situation.

I want to tell the member, whose views I always listen to with care, that it is important for us to recognize there is a law in place and it simply isn't possible for the Premier

on a given afternoon to say the law is no longer in effect. That isn't the way we can do business in this province.

JOB CREATION

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier as well. It has to do with the budget and jobs. As the Premier knows, tomorrow we'll see the unemployment numbers for the month of April. In the budget, Premier, your first objective was, "We are taking immediate steps to create jobs," and on page 9 you have a chart that outlines 90,000 jobs. Would you indicate to the House today how many of those 90,000 jobs are new jobs?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): When you refer to new jobs, since you're asking for some kind of definition, I could equally well answer, "What do you mean by new?" Unless these investments were made, it's our view and the view of the economists in the treasury and elsewhere that those jobs would not exist. They would not be there. By means of an almost \$4-billion capital program and other measures we're taking on the tax side with respect to corporations, we believe we're helping to sustain job growth in the province, and unless that investment were made, those jobs would not be there.

Mr Phillips: Premier, as I've said many times, your credibility is at stake in the budget. You say in the budget you are taking steps not to maintain jobs but to create jobs. As we look at that chart with the 90,000 jobs, in our opinion there is not one new job; there is not one incremental job that wasn't there last year. Your capital spending is exactly the same as it was last year. The amount of money you're spending on non-profit housing is actually less than you had last year. I think it's close to misleading the public to say you are creating new jobs.

I say again, in this chart your spending is actually lower than it was last year; there are fewer jobs, not more jobs, than you had last year. I would like the Premier to outline for the House today where on that chart the new jobs are that weren't there last year. Why are we wrong when we say you have fewer jobs in that area than you had last year?

Hon Mr Rae: I've been in opposition a lot longer than I've been in government, so I think I know something about being in both places. I would dare to suggest to the honourable member that everybody's credibility is on the line, because if you go back to last year—and I have a fairly good memory for the questions, particularly coming from the member for Scarborough-Agincourt because there is a certain consistency in the questions he asks—he was saying last year that the jobs we were creating weren't real jobs. Now he's saying, "The jobs you're creating next year are not real jobs either."

You tell that to the construction workers in the housing industry. You tell that to the construction owners in the housing industry, who know that if we weren't in the marketplace, those jobs and those businesses wouldn't be there. You tell that to the people in the child care centres, who know full well if that investment wasn't here from this government, those jobs wouldn't be there either. You go down and talk to the people who are building our

schools, the people who are building the bridges and the roads and making the improvements to the infrastructure of the province, and say to the fellow who's making \$12 or \$14 or \$16 an hour or the woman who's making money working at a child care centre that the job she has isn't a real job. Those are real jobs, and that's the truth, and those are the facts.

Mr Phillips: Yes, I said that last year, and we have record unemployment. There are 609,000 people out of work. We have 12% unemployment, and that's the reason, exactly as we predicted. You said you had a \$700-million anti-recession program. You cut half of it out. That's exactly right. You cut \$400 million out.

The Premier said in this budget he was reducing taxes for many people. On page 28, as we look at the taxes people are going to pay this year, the federal government initiated a tax reduction effective July 1, 1992. What did this government do? It stepped in and put in a tax increase effective January 1, 1992. It not only took away what the federal government cut; it made it retroactive.

Premier, how can you say that by taking more money out of the people than the federal government put back in their pockets that you are going to create jobs? In our opinion, \$1 billion worth of new taxes out of the economy is 25,000 jobs. Tell me where we're wrong on that one, that the people of Ontario are going to have less money. I'm not talking about well-to-do people; I'm talking about a \$30,000 income with more taxes, not less tax. Tell me if I'm wrong.

Hon Mr Rae: If I've succeeded in nothing else, I've succeeded in animating the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, and I regard that as a success. If he'd hit that stride earlier, he might be in a different seat.

I say to him in all sincerity that the Liberal Party can't have it all ways. They say they want a lower deficit, then they say they want to have more spending and then they say they want to have less taxation. As I've said before, to describe that as "voodoo" is to pay it a compliment.

The fact of the matter is that the federal government has failed to pay its share on social assistance. We know that's true, that it's gone from 30 cents. We have decided that somebody has to pay. There's no magic around here; you don't have a printing machine in the basement. You know that full well because you were a minister in the cabinet as well. You know the only way we can do it is either to raise the revenues from the economy of the province or to borrow. There's a limit to how much you can borrow, and there's a limit to how much you can tax, and there's a limit to how much you can spend. Everybody who's been on this side of the House knows that lesson. Don't tell me you don't know the answer to the question, because you know it full well.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question. The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Maybe you should be thankful, Mr Premier, that the member for Scarborough-Agincourt didn't hit his stride earlier, or you might be in a different seat.

1450

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Since the acting Treasurer is not here today, I'll go to the Premier. Despite the Treasurer's wild imagination, Ottawa said, "The cheque to you, Bob, is not in the mail." If you read Mr Mazankowski's quote today, he said, "I don't think Floyd is seriously figuring he will get all this money"—that he's suggested he's going to get, the \$1.2 billion—"in the current fiscal year."

Mr Premier, you said the deficit is \$9.9 billion. You counted on \$1.2 billion from the feds. The federal government has said, "You're not getting this much money this year." That takes your deficit up over \$11 billion. The question is, considering those comments, considering the credibility, how do you respond?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, many things will be said, but let's listen to what other people have said, apart from the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I think the guy who really counts is the guy you want the cheque from.

Hon Mr Rae: Just listen for a moment. You asked a question and you're going to get an answer. It may not be the answer you like.

Listen to the chairman and CEO of the Bank of Montreal, who says, "There are aspects of the budget that I liked a great deal."

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): He's not paying you the \$1.2 billion.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Listen to what Mr Carl Beigie said: "I was impressed with this budget. I think people are going to be impressed with the fact that there is a significantly lower deficit than many people were anticipating. Most important, Laughren has said, as I had been hoping he would, he has looked into the 21st century and he says that what we've got to do is get the people of Ontario, both those who are employed and especially those who are unemployed today, geared to be able to be productive in a bold new world out there."

I can tell the member that I've just come back from New York. Ambassador Enders, the former ambassador to Canada, said to me, "It was a very fine budget, something of which you can be very proud," with respect to sending a clear message to the world and sending a clear message to the people of this province that we are realistic, we know what we're doing and we're heading in the right direction.

That has been the clear indication we've had from capital markets. That's been the clear indication we've had from the people of this province. People understand you have to run things realistically and that's what this budget is all about. I'm proud of our Treasurer, proud of what he's done and I'm proud of what we're trying to do.

Mr Stockwell: You might as well ask him if he likes rice pudding, because the answer he gives you has absolutely no relationship to the question that's asked. I didn't ask about ambassadors, Mr Premier. I didn't ask about

who you met with in New York. I didn't ask about what their comments were.

The treasurer of the federal government has said you're not going to get your \$1.2 billion this year. That means your deficit goes from \$9.9 billion to over \$11 billion. Are you going to come clean with the public, Mr Premier? Please answer the question. Mr Mazankowski said you are not getting \$1.2 billion. When will we see the adjustment to your deficit figures?

Hon Mr Rae: In answer to the first question the member asked, let me say to him that I don't simply like rice pudding, I love rice pudding. If the member wants to ask me where is the best place to get it in the entire world, I will tell him where it is. It's the Mars restaurant at the corner of College and Bathurst streets; the best rice pudding anywhere in the world. You want to talk about world class, that's world class. In fact, as the sign says, it's out of this world when it comes to rice pudding. So I make no apologies with regard to that question. You asked me a question and you're going to get an answer.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): The province is broke and he's talking about rice pudding. That is straight from Bill Davis's garbage.

Hon Mr Rae: The member for St George-St David ordinarily has a sense of humour and I hope he doesn't lose it.

Let me say in all seriousness to the member for Etobicoke West, who is asking the question, that I have looked through the record very carefully. I don't see the Finance minister of Canada making any such definitive statement and I will tell him very directly that the projections of our minister of finance and Treasurer, with respect to money that is owed, to accounts that are receivable and to a clear understanding of how the process is supposed to work, are based on the Treasurer's best judgement in this regard. I have full confidence in the judgement of the Treasurer when it comes to this.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Premier, I'm certain you've read this article. I'm also certain you've had this article explained to you. I'm also certain you're very aware of the statements that were made. This, Mr Premier, is why your credibility on the fiscal management of this province is in tatters, because you refuse to accept the obvious.

Mr Premier, you must also know today that the Scotia-McLeod analysis of your budget was announced today. They said you will need revenue increases this year of at least 13% to meet your midterm targets. Let me be very clear. At best, it's 6%—at absolute best.

You've obviously danced around the \$1.2-billion deficit question; you're not going to answer it. Will you please answer this very poignant question: How do you expect to achieve a 13% increase in your revenue?

Hon Mr Rae: I think we've indicated very clearly, in terms of the medium- and longer-term objective of this government, that it is to get expenditures under control. We have done more on expenditure control than any government. No government which you supported was as successful as we are going to be with respect to controlling expenditures in critical areas. I can say that to the member.

I can say to the member as well that we look forward to reaching the targets that we know we have to reach. As the Treasurer has already indicated, we are determined to reach these targets and we are determined to act responsibly in this regard. I'm confident we can do it. What I do know is we should be doing it and should be making every effort to get there.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): My question is to the Minister of Labour, who I believe might have stepped out. In his absence, maybe I could ask it of the Premier. If he hears me in the back—I'll proceed with the question rather slowly so that he can get here. My mother loves it when I'm on TV this long, anyway.

Earlier this year, the leader of the Conservative Party had a survey which asked about the labour legislation. Mr Harris's survey came in and 88% of the people who responded said they are opposed to the labour legislation. In fact, when the question was asked, they were "strongly opposed" to the plan of this government.

My question to the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, is this: Will you go back to the table with business, like you've said you want to do, and with labour and come back and work with those two groups to truly come together with some concrete improvement in labour relations in Ontario?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The short answer to a long question, if you're asking me whether we are going to be meeting with business and labour to come up with the best possible plan, is yes. That's exactly what we've been doing. We wouldn't do it any other way. I'm also determined to do more to get people in the same room.

But I want to say this to the honourable member, and I mean this and say it very directly to him. I believe a balanced approach to labour relations which improves the interests of both sides, which improves a sense of mutual respect, which ensures there isn't a lot of wasteful energy and conflict-oriented stuff that surrounds organizing or that surrounds the resolution of disputes, will be matched by improvements in productivity and by improvements in the workplace in terms of morale and in terms of how the workplace operates.

I believe the kinds of labour relations we must practise in this province must be good for business, must be good for the economy and must produce positive results. I profoundly believe this is the kind of approach we are going to take, and that's the kind of approach that's going to have an impact.

Mr Carr: I have some replies that have come in in just a few weeks. These are the people from just Oakville South who disagree with you. In a few weeks, this is what has come in. The member from Waterloo, the critic for the Conservative Party, has even more. This has come in in just a few weeks. These people disagree with you. These are average people out there, workers and business people, saying that you are wrong.

What they are saying in some of these replies, if I can sum them up, is that your legislation will kill jobs, kill investment and hurt the economy. What these people are

saying to you, Mr Premier, and to your Minister of Labour, the people of Oakville and Burlington who sent these in, is that this is not a good piece of legislation, this is not a good time to bring it in, it will hurt the economy and would you please withdraw it. I am saying to you today: Will you withdraw your legislation in light of the fact that the people of this province, in droves, en masse, do not want it?

1500

Hon Mr Rae: I can only say to the honourable member that just as I'm sure it's true to say you can't stop a shot on goal that hasn't been shot yet, so it's true that you can't withdraw legislation that hasn't been introduced yet. We have not introduced legislation yet. We will be introducing legislation. It will be based on consultation. When the legislation is introduced, there will be an intensive period of consultation, in this House and directly between labour and management, which I am going to do everything I can to encourage. The legislation will then, by virtue of its importance to people, and I'm sure to members of the opposition, go to committee in the summer. We will be listening carefully to the suggestions that are made and it will then be considered in the fall.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): No, it won't.

Hon Mr Rae: The member for York Centre says, "No, it won't." That's the democratic process. I know that, in his heart of hearts, he wouldn't want to upset the democratic process.

Mr Sorbara: How many days are you giving us for second reading? Give me a break.

Hon Mr Rae: I will say to the honourable member, before he gets too agitated, I want to assure him that we want to have a very fair discussion in the House and with the people of this province. I ask the honourable member to perhaps do something we would all be well advised to do: Withhold your judgement on the wisdom or quality of legislation until you've seen the legislation.

Mr Carr: I too didn't stop too many shots. I think that's probably why I'm here.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for York Centre.

Mr Carr: I don't know if that's a good or bad thing. But reading through the people who have written in is extremely depressing reading.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Would the member for York Centre come to order.

Mr Carr: The reading of this material is extremely depressing. I want to pick out one short letter from a chap who wrote in. These are part of the literally hundreds that are here.

"My company has 500 employees. If this legislation is passed, I will move to the United States immediately. This is the last straw."

There are pages and pages of replies saying this, similar to what was heard during the consultation process. It is going to hurt jobs. The very people who voted for you are

now going to be the ones hurt. I say to you again, if it's going to cost jobs, if it's going to cost investment, will you withdraw the legislation, sit down with business and labour as they've talked about, stop with the one-sided issues and put everything on the table to discuss it so we don't lost any more jobs in a province that is already being ravaged by job loss here today?

Hon Mr Rae: I appreciate, for rhetorical reasons, why the member is doing it. The people who are watching, perhaps the people who only watch the questions and not the answers will get the wrong impression. I'm sure the member would want to stand in his place and ask himself and ask the people to say, "I didn't mean 'withdraw'; I meant 'change' or 'adjust.'" There is no legislation in place. He keeps saying, "Will you withdraw the legislation?" There isn't legislation. There has been a discussion paper which has been discussed. The cabinet will now consider what legislative approach to take. There will then be second reading, there will then be committee consideration and there will then be third reading. During that entire period there will be an intensive period of consultation between labour and management.

I am more convinced by the actions of a company like Ford, which has made a decision to invest an additional \$1.5 billion in this province in two major centres and which is, I believe, indicating clearly its confidence in this province, the future, the workforce and in a healthy pattern of industrial relations in Ontario. That is a message that speaks far louder than the rhetoric of the honourable member. I must say, having listened carefully to the three questions, I really wonder whether he is being fair in continuing to demand we withdraw a piece of legislation which hasn't even been introduced yet.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I want to follow up on a question that my colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt had in regard to unemployment rates. My question is to the Minister of Skills Development.

Within the province of Ontario the youth unemployment rate is as high as 19%, I think much higher; 167,000 of our youth are without jobs. The rate for minorities and native youth is even higher.

As you know, in this economy the job opportunities continue to decline, and the dreams of those who pursue higher education as an alternative have been taken away by the budget, where government cut the OSAP assistance to students by as much as \$10 million. This has left young people feeling very frustrated and with little, if any, hope for their future.

My question to the Minister of Skills Development is: While the initiatives announced this morning are welcome and I was delighted to hear them, it will take some time before any concrete action will be seen. Where are these students who are looking for jobs now to go? Could you tell me, Mr Minister, where they are to go today to look for jobs?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): There are a number of observations and parts to that question. It's quite clear that when one initiates a new program, it does take a few weeks, perhaps a couple of

months, to get things up and running, so I am not sure exactly what he means by "today."

It is quite clear that the program Jobs Ontario training fund is addressed to young people, as to middle-aged people, as to all persons who might find themselves out of work, on social assistance and having to depend on other kinds of support than earning a living in a workplace.

The simple answer to the member is that this program is indeed directed at those young people. In addition to that, we are actively extending and expanding the school workplace apprenticeship program through more and more boards in this province. There are 35 of them now involved in that program. We've got money invested in the new budget that will go into expanding that program into more and more schools to put more and more students into apprenticeships. We've got expanding cooperative education programs, and there are, of course, all the other options for seeking work that are out there through a number of agencies which help facilitate young people to find work through my ministry.

Mr Curling: The minister has explained to me the job opportunities in the future and what he has in place to happen later on. I'm talking about immediate. I know the announcements that are made will, in maybe six or nine or 10 months, give some hope to those people. What they need now is immediate hope, and I know you, Mr Minister, are capable of providing those individuals, especially the disadvantaged and the minority youth of this province, with some hope they so desperately need.

My question then again to the minister is: Today the government has access to such programs as the Futures program, which you are quite familiar with, which was specifically designed to assist disadvantaged youth find and maintain jobs through counselling. Why isn't the minister building on what we have in place and putting some money in place there? At the moment, they are in place. All it needs is for the money to be flowed there and I am sure that students could immediately get jobs. I think you can build upon that. Will you commit to that, that you put some funds in there now?

Hon Mr Allen: We are doing the best we can with the resources at our disposal to expand and enrich as many programs as we can, directed both at the young persons in need of skills training and others, of course, who are in need of that same training.

Most of those programs also have very clear equity considerations in them. In the program that I announced today, we will be specifically asking the brokers who field the program to meet certain kinds of targets with respect to equity considerations and designated groups so that across the spectrum of the people of Ontario there will be appropriate availability of training for all of them in terms of race, of background of any kind, of youth, age or whatever.

1510

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: You'll remember well the emergency hearings last summer where everyone,

including yourself, admitted that Ontario agriculture was in serious economic difficulty, and I do know that your briefing book material says, "The Ontario agricultural sector has undergone severe farm income reductions during 1990-91." The budget clearly had a 6%-plus reduction in your ministry. Is it the government's position that agriculture will do so well this year that it merits one of the biggest spending cuts?

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): As outlined by other members of the government, we tried to balance things in the budget. We tried to cut back carefully in terms of savings and also put forward new programs that are going to benefit those people who need it the most. In fact, we did make sure that agriculture did get some new programs, which were announced by the Treasurer.

The member will also recognize the fact that he has been lobbying very hard to maintain the farm tax rebate; that in fact was farmers', and I believe the member's, priority for this government in terms of a budget. He will know that program was retained, and in fact additional moneys were put into the farm tax rebate to ensure universality for that program for farmers in Ontario.

I think the Treasurer, the cabinet and the government have done a very good job of trying to support agriculture to the extent that we have dollars available for it.

Mr Villeneuve: Yes indeed, the farm tax rebate went up by 8%. Why? Because rural taxes went up very considerably, and in order to reimburse taxes that farmers already were being reimbursed, it had to go up by 8%. That's not support for farmers; that's just maintaining a status quo. These increases in the program are robbing your ministry of dollars needed to provide necessary farm programs. Do you, Minister, really believe that farmers have been treated fairly in this budget with a 6% reduction plus the tax rebate?

Hon Mr Buchanan: Yes. In terms of being treated fairly in this budget there were new initiatives announced, over \$20 million in terms of new long-term programs which will allow farmers to do long-term planning. They will know what the future looks like in terms of government support for agriculture. Those are the kinds of programs farmers and farm leaders have been calling for over a number of years. If the member thinks about it, he will recognize the importance of having long-term programs. That's what we announced in the budget, and that's what we intend to pursue in the future.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Through you, Mr Speaker, to the Minister of Health, I would like to relay to you a story of the Sudbury General Hospital in my riding which in 1986 was designated as the trauma centre for northeastern Ontario. In 1987 it was reconfirmed and in 1990, when we became the government, it was again designated the trauma centre. To this day we have yet to have a trauma centre in our riding. Because of the review, there is some delay. Will the needs of the region in terms of the need for a trauma centre in northern Ontario be one of the considerations in the review process?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): The frustration that this community and a lot of other communities feel about how capital projects get announced and reannounced and reviewed and then reannounced—this has gone on a lot. On a personal level I feel really badly for those communities where this happens, but I think the capital review we have put in place right now, given the level of transfer payments for operating costs and our need to ensure that the capital redevelopment is in line with the new planning guidelines and doesn't produce additional strains on operating costs, is important.

The regional interests and needs that would be served by a new trauma centre of course are important in terms of the kinds of considerations we will look at. When we look at the planning guidelines, we do look at the issue of regional needs as well as things like the bed-patient ratio.

The member for Quinte asked me a question similar to this last week and the answer is similar: Those sorts of things will be taken into consideration and we are trying to proceed through the reviews in an expeditious way.

Ms Murdock: I understand the need for the review, but it's just that when you have the trauma centre and you can only handle no more than two patients, it's an important issue. When can the Sudbury General Hospital and northeastern Ontario expect a positive decision?

Hon Ms Lankin: There was a touch of sort of a loaded nature to that question: When can they expect a positive decision? They can expect the results of the review, as I said, as expeditiously as possible.

We announced the review in January. In March the first response with respect to the Princess Margaret Hospital was released. Before April we announced 10 projects that we released. A couple of weeks ago we announced Peel and Simcoe. Last week there were a number of other projects we made the announcements on. We are moving as quickly as possible.

I said we are shooting for the end of May. I can't promise we will make that deadline, but we are trying to do it by that period or as soon thereafter as possible. I know how anxious the community is, and we will try to get a response to them and the other communities that are waiting in response to this review.

MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): To the Premier, through you, Mr Speaker: We all heard the point of privilege raised by the member for York Centre. I would ask the Premier to advise the House if he found the actions undertaken by his Minister of Housing to be acceptable? If not, what is he prepared to do about it?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): There will obviously be differing accounts of a particular event, and I think the minister has already indicated that she has apologized to the member for her sort of immediate response to the situation.

Let me make it very clear to the member opposite, to ministers and to everybody that I expect ministers—as I have done and as I will continue to do—to meet regularly with members of the opposition and to include members of the opposition in the delegations which make presentations

to them as a matter of course. I would also say to the member that from time to time ministers may meet with groups and members may not be present. But I certainly don't think it's part of the policy of this government or the direction of this government to exclude members of the opposition, or from anywhere, from meetings to which they have been invited.

Mr Elston: The words are nice, but this is the second incident I know of with respect to matters related to the Housing portfolio. I remember quite clearly that when the member for Windsor-Riverside was the minister, he apologized to the member for Oriole for having had her refused entry to a public meeting on behalf of her constituents.

Now we find that the minister herself ejected a member who was with his own constituency's representatives in a meeting to which he was invited by them and which he had helped to arrange. Mr Speaker, I guess I am asking the Premier, through you, to advise this House that it is the policy, ironclad, that if the constituents of any member ask her or him to join them in a meeting with ministers of the crown or officials of the ministries, the member will be, without exception, allowed to participate in the meetings with the officials, with the officials of any part of the government of Ontario or with any minister or parliamentary assistant. I only wish to have that assurance from the Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: I would only say to the member—and I don't mean to be contentious—that I was once asked to leave a room by an assistant to the Attorney General in the middle of the constitutional discussions.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): That's when you were Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: That's when I was Leader of the Opposition. These things happen, and I would say to the honourable member that as a basic pattern, as a basic rule and as a basic observation I believe members should be allowed to participate as members of delegations, where that's the wish of delegations, to have access to officials and to have access to meetings with ministers. As a basic principle—

Mr Elston: If they asked you to be there, why did they throw you out?

Hon Mr Rae: If the member will give me a chance to respond, as a basic principle I think it's important for members to know that I think they should be included in meetings, and I think that's the direction of this government. Where private meetings are being held, it should be made clear that that is the nature of the meeting at the request of all the people concerned.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question. The member for Carleton.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): Tell us what you told Evelyn. We can lip-read. "Unacceptable" is what you told her.

The Speaker: Order, the member for St George-St David.

Mr Scott: That's only an ideological comment, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: That's very nice, but the member for Carleton has the floor.

1520

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Mr Premier, I have had no luck with the Minister of Education with regard to the Carleton Board of Education strike. You may or may not be aware that the talks have collapsed. Nothing is happening at this time. There are 15,000 high school students who now have missed 24 days of school, one more than the Ottawa board when the minister at that time was threatening back-to-work legislation. Will you, Mr Premier, advise the parents, the students and this House what you are going to do to get the students in the Carleton area back to school?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will refer the question to the Minister of Education because he's much more aware of the day-to-day and hour-to-hour activities and negotiations than I am.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): That certainly is coming down to a day-to-day and hour-to-hour event as things unfold. As the member knows and has indicated, negotiations had broken off. I've been advised that as a result of discussions the Education Relations Commission was involved in with the parties this morning, negotiations are resuming as of Saturday morning.

In fact, the ERC has decided to postpone a hearing that was scheduled for tomorrow dealing with these same parties on the bad-faith bargaining allegation, because it believes proceeding with that hearing would not be appropriate and would not be helpful to the negotiations, but after discussions with the parties, they have agreed to resume negotiations on Saturday morning. My understanding also is that the ERC has scheduled a meeting for Monday morning in the event that the negotiations don't result in a successful negotiated agreement over the weekend.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I've got to tell you I'm getting very angry with the minister and his lack of action. The parents and students in my area are calling my office. I'm getting hundreds of phone calls from parents asking: "What can we do to get our students back in school, Mr Sterling? Should we withhold our taxes?" Today the students of the elementary panel are now staging walkouts across the Carleton area because the elementary school teachers are working to rule.

Mr Minister, when are you going to display some leadership, a firm hand and tell the teachers to get back into the classrooms and teach the children? These students are going to miss their year because of you and the lack of action by your government. When are you going to take some action? Why don't you bring forward Bill 6 this afternoon, or your own legislation? I'm sure this Legislature would pass all three readings right now if you'd bring that legislation forward. We're getting desperate, Mr Min-

ister, and you're not showing any action or leadership at all.

Hon Mr Silipo: I won't apologize to the member for not bringing forward back-to-work legislation, which is what he would like me to do. I have indicated numerous times in this House that I believe that not only is it useful and necessary, but appropriate and possible, for the parties in this dispute to resolve the dispute between themselves. I believe that's still possible.

The other thing I would say is that with respect to the school year for the students, I have indicated again, and I will be very emphatic in this, that we will make sure, no matter how this issue is resolved, that the year for the students is protected. We will take whatever actions are necessary to ensure that happens.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): My question is to the Minister of Housing. I've been getting several phone calls and letters from councils in my riding and also from some of the contractors, and of course concerned individuals. There seems to be some confusion and concern in regard to access to affordable housing. The federal government's decision to cancel its cooperative housing program has a lot of people in my riding worried. They're quite concerned about the federal government's commitment to provide affordable housing. Could the minister please clarify things for the House and the people in my riding as to her efforts on access to affordable housing?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I welcome the question. We have had a real blow from the federal budget. As I've told this House before, we'll be losing access to funding for units from the federal budget. We had previously thought that would mean 6,700 units over the next five years. In fact, as we learned more details from CMHC, it's going to mean that we'll be losing about 8,500 units over the next five years. Because of that, the provincial ministers of housing have met. I will be meeting next week on their behalf with Elmer MacKay, the federal minister of housing, hoping to reverse that decision. We will of course be moving ahead with our own programs here in Ontario.

Mr Hayes: Just as a point of information, twice in 1986 it happened to me that the Liberal government barred me from coming into any meetings with my councils. I want to let people know that.

Madam Minister, you mentioned the 8,500 loss of homes because of the decision by the federal government, but you also mentioned that we're going to gain 2,000 because of our new program. Is our new Jobs Ontario homes fund a response to the federal government's cutbacks?

Hon Ms Gigantes: We'll be moving ahead with a very vigorous program, as the member has indicated. We expect over three years that we'll be able to get 20,000 units going because of the provincial budget moneys. That will be 36,000 jobs in addition to the 25,000 units we'll be completing this year, which are generating 45,000 jobs in construction this year.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): My question is to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, the people of north-western Ontario, particularly in the ridings of Kenora and Rainy River, are confused and were certainly looking forward to your visit of some four or five weeks ago. It's truly unfortunate that you were unable to make it and your plans had changed.

Madam Minister, you will know that the former Liberal Minister of Health announced \$15 million in capital to upgrade the hospitals in the area covered by the Kenora-Rainy River district health council. At the 1991 Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association conference in Fort Frances last May your Premier came into the northwest and said the \$15 million in capital funds that were allocated was news to him and that he was not prepared to commit to the same.

Madam Minister, on May 27, 1991, you rose in the House to answer my question and stated that you would look into the fund, and you did: On June 27 you affirmed in a letter to the district health council that the allocation still stood and that the proposals were in a review process.

I was at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association convention last week to hear the Attorney General say that the hospital boards affected will "be hearing within the next two weeks from the Ministry of Health that their original proposals will have to be reworked." I tell you, Madam Minister, news of further delays was so discouraging to those in attendance. Can you explain why the proposals will have to be reworked and why yet another hurdle is being thrown in the way of these capital projects?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): With respect to the response within two weeks, as I've indicated to a number of members in this House when they've been asking me about capital projects, we're very hopeful of being able to get out responses on the next group of those capital reviews by the end of May. I think that two-week period is referencing my comments in terms of attempting to do that.

Let me just reaffirm what you said, that the commitment for the \$15-million capital allocation has been maintained through the period of review. You will know, as the member and I have talked about directly in the House, that the district health council made recommendations with respect to that \$15-million allocation. The total amount of the recommendations exceeded that \$15 million by a substantial amount. As we work through the capital review, that poses a problem for us, but we're not trying to put up any more hurdles or delays in the process. I think perhaps the member has misunderstood.

Mr Miclash: Madam Minister, I guess my bottom-line question is, when can the Kenora-Rainy River district health council expect some announcement and some action from you?

Hon Ms Lankin: I hope to have a response to the district health council, as I have indicated, with the next batch of responses on the capital review. I am hopeful that it's by the end of this month. We may be able to move on the Rainy River one in advance because it's a bit of a

different situation: There's still the issue of what the DHC has proposed with respect to these projects and the actual amount of money available. I will be doing everything I can to expedite it, though.

Let me assure the member, as I have assured the Attorney General, who speaks to me frequently on this as well—the people up there need to know that both their representatives are representing them well on this issue—that we will attempt to get them a response and work with the community to try to match the priorities to the moneys available.

1530

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Minister, while in Elgin county last Friday, you said that you'd planned a committee to discuss the effects that gambling casinos and sports betting will have on existing sports lotteries, bingos and raffles. Mr Minister, will you make a commitment to this House today that you intend to make this committee an all-party legislative committee and not just one of your usual touring ministry road shows?

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): The comments that I made were basically concerning casinos. My intention in my explanation to the people I was speaking to was simply to say that we're putting together what we call a project team. It's certainly in conjunction with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations as well as our ministry, and the public in general will have an opportunity, I believe, to be part of this, people from the organizations that represent charities and people who would be representing the horse racing industry, as well as people who represent municipalities.

Mr Tilson: The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations said she's going to want an impact study after they implement the gambling casinos. I wonder if you can tell me when you're going to have this project team formed. Is it going to be before or after the gambling casinos are implemented?

Hon Mr North: The member can insinuate basically anything that he likes in this House; that's his prerogative. What we've said very clearly from the start is that we were at one point considering casinos. We're still considering casinos and the way we'll approach casinos in this province. Our intention is to make sure that people get an opportunity to speak to us about casinos and that they get an opportunity to voice their opinions and their understanding of what they perceive a casino to be in this province.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Members of the House are well aware that within the budget was announced the curbsider provision in order to afford the motorists of this province who purchase used motor vehicles some protection. I know my office has received a lot of calls from individuals who have purchased used vehicles. In the latest instance, Mr Bob Good from Kitchener purchased a used motor vehicle and the odometer

had been turned back. He has been having some difficulty getting the matter straightened out.

Could the minister outline for the residents of this province some of the positive features of this program, when it will come into effect, where it can be accessed and how it's going to be effectively put in place in order to reduce the amount of illegal activity that currently surrounds the purchase of some used motor vehicles?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I don't think the Speaker will allow me to answer all of your questions today. This was a very important part of the budget. This will take effect in April 1993. Indeed there has been a problem out there for many years with so-called curbsiders who sell cars in private sales and, quite frankly, to coin a phrase, rip people off frequently. People buy cars and there are often liens on these cars, they've been tampered with, there are all kinds of things. People buy these cars thinking they're getting a deal and in fact they're being ripped off.

Starting in April, people will be able to purchase this vehicle transfer package, which means the private dealer will have to supply to the purchaser all this kind of background information so he knows exactly what he's getting.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired.

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe it was last week, you will recall, that the member for Simcoe West raised a point of order. Actually I believe it was a point of privilege. He had asked a question in this place about the cost of a certain drug that was being used by the medical community. His point of privilege or request to you to examine his point of privilege was based on the fact that Dr Morton Shulman, a member of the New Democratic Party and a former member of this Legislature, circulated documentation that took issue with the member's concern in his statement.

My point of order to you, sir, is that at that time you took the question of privilege raised under advisement, said you would report back to this place with a report and subsequently, I believe, did so, indeed with a written report, if I recall correctly, and I believe your finding was that the member's privileges had not been violated as a result of the fact that it did not occur in this place.

I'm curious, sir, as to why you did not do something similar to that on the point of order today raised by my colleague who was summarily expelled from a meeting with the Minister of Housing, why you would not have taken that under advisement to investigate it in a similar way, yet just simply rose to the conclusion that because it wasn't taking place in this place, it didn't affect his privilege as a member.

I'd like to know what the differences are in your mind on the two issues. They both would involve the right of a member to operate freely without intimidation. Clearly it would be intimidating for a Minister of Housing, a minister of the crown, to eject a member of this place from a room in front of his or her constituents, and clearly would affect his right and his ability—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Mississauga West, first—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I appreciate the fact that the member inquires with respect to points of order and privilege which are raised. Indeed he is correct that earlier the member for Simcoe West had raised his point of privilege and indicated that there was certain documentation and cited his research and parliamentary authorities. Naturally the most appropriate thing to do under those circumstances would be to reserve judgement so I had an opportunity to both examine the documents and to consider the documentation he presented from parliamentary sources. I needed an opportunity to do that and did it at my earliest convenience and brought a written response to the chamber on Monday of this week.

The matter which was raised earlier today by the member for York Centre was one that clearly, in my mind, fell outside the precinct and hence was not a matter for consideration by the Speaker. Indeed, as I think I indicated earlier on, the situation he described is affected either by a minister's policy, a government policy or simply a matter of courtesy. As such, it's something for the members to decide. If it is seen by members to be a somewhat larger issue, perhaps it's something they may wish to have the House leaders discussing.

I note also that it was a matter of a question in the House to the Premier on the same lines and that there was both a question and a response to the issue. If the member wishes to pursue the matter further, he may wish to discuss it with his House leader and hence as part of the agenda of the regular weekly meeting, but I appreciate the matter having been raised with me.

Mr Mahoney: I know it's improper to challenge the ruling. I'm not doing that. I'm just asking for some help on clarification on how you or anyone in the chair would make such a ruling.

It would be clear that both matters, regardless of whether or not they were substantiated with documentation—I'm sure the concern Mr Sorbara raised in regard to that meeting could be substantiated with documentation. It's not a matter of whether or not the member for Simcoe West had documentation to substantiate his privilege or our member had documentation. Both issues are clearly issues that took place outside the purview of this Legislature.

One you took the time to analyse and study, and one involved a private citizen, albeit a member of the NDP, but still a private citizen. This one involves not only a member of the political party involved but clearly a minister of the crown. It would seem to me one is substantially more serious than the other, yet, sir, with due respect, you took the time to analyse and report on one, and the one that would be clearly more substantive and more significant to me, a member of the cabinet throwing a member of this Legislature out of a room, is something you dismissed out of hand. I'd like to understand on what basis these rulings are made.

The Speaker: To the member for Mississauga West, I can assure him, as I can assure all members of the House,

that I take each issue that's brought to my attention seriously. The ruling I delivered this afternoon to the member for York Centre in fact, I believe, was commented upon by his House leader, who indicated that indeed that's correct, that the Speaker does not have the ability to deal with issues which occur outside the chamber.

I understand fully the concern members have with respect to their privileges. I am, as I will always try to be, the guardian of those privileges within the precinct. I will do my utmost to do that. I'm sorry the member is disappointed with the way in which your Speaker has handled the issue, but I dealt with it as it occurred and as quickly and fairly as I could, and I believe I delivered the proper resolution of the matter. If the member wishes to pursue that particular issue further, I would certainly invite him to discuss it with his House leader, who may in turn want to discuss it at the weekly meeting of the House leaders.

1540

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I have a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: This is something new?

Mrs Caplan: Yes. On that point of order, members of the Legislature are aware that the Speaker, while he rules here in the Legislative Assembly, has some influence over what happens within the legislative precinct.

There are two issues that have been raised. One is the conduct of the minister and that's why the question was placed to the Premier. While my colleague the member for York Centre said he didn't question the behaviour, manners and judgement of the minister in throwing him out of her office, that is a code of conduct and behaviour that the Premier, who appoints the ministers, must answer for. On the other hand, the issue of rights of members to represent their constituents is, I believe, an issue which you as Speaker of this Legislature, of this House, and also as the person who has responsibility for what happens within the precinct, could consider and perhaps have a ruling on.

I understand that when a similar circumstance, although not the same, occurred with me, that was in my constituency. It was not in a constituency office; it was in a library building that had been rented by the ministry. The result of that was that the former Minister of Housing rose in this House, apologized to me and assured me and other members of this House that it would not happen again.

Not only has it happened again, but it's even worse because a minister of the crown told my colleague that he could not attend a meeting in the office of the minister, which is part of the precinct of this Legislature, in front of his constituents after he had been requested by a constituent to—

The Speaker: Would the member for Oriole take her seat, please. I must say to the member that while I appreciate her concern about the issue, the matter to which she refers did not occur within the precinct. It did not occur in this chamber. It did not occur in this building. A minister's office is part of a government complex. It is not under the jurisdiction of the Speaker.

I understand full well the matter the member raises. Indeed, I listened carefully to the questions, the concerns and the response from the Premier. All I can say to the member is that this issue is important to members. I understand that fully. Unfortunately, your Speaker cannot be of any assistance to you in this matter.

Perhaps the House leaders, at a meeting they normally hold once a week or at some other specially called meeting, can deal with the matter, which obviously is of concern to many members. If there's any way in which the Speaker can assist in facilitating a meeting, as always, I am more than pleased to do so, because above all else I want members to feel their privileges are never abused—each and every member of this House.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Because of the time constraints, Mr Speaker, I'd like to give notice under rule 33 that I am very dissatisfied with the Minister of Education's answer today and I will be requesting an opportunity to debate that at 6 pm tonight. I have already notified the minister that I will be doing this.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Carleton has raised his point of order. I trust he will file the necessary document with the table.

Mr Sterling: I am very unhappy as well with the correction the House leader pointed out to me.

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, not to go over the same issue again, perhaps you could help us by taking under advisement the issue I'm about to raise and report back to us.

My concern and the reason for raising the issue is there are two issues that, while different, have some similarities. Both occurred outside of this Legislature; both involved members of the Legislature. You took time and gave a detailed ruling on one, and gave what I would call, with respect, a snap judgement on the other.

What I would like to ask is for us to understand what consistency we can expect from the Speaker's chair on rulings of that nature. I recognized that a minister of the crown is not under your control and that, if the Minister of Housing decided to expel the member for York Centre from the room full of his constituents, clearly that would seem to me to be the minister's prerogative, but it does impact on this member's ability to represent his constituents, and at the very least is behaviour not befitting a minister of the crown.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I understand your question. Would the member take his seat, please. Rather than occupy the time of the House, I would invite the member to visit me in my chambers. I would be more than pleased to discuss this matter further with him. All I can do is assure the member and all members of the House that I take seriously each and every point of order and privilege which is raised. I handle it to the best of my ability, with advice and knowledge, and I will always do that.

PETITIONS

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My petition is to the government of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the concerned parents and ratepayers in the region of Peel, protest the recent Peel board's decision to eliminate the junior kindergarten program. This decision is unjust, unfair and highly discriminatory against children who were born in 1988, are non-Catholic and who reside in Peel.

"The ministry's own booklet, entitled Report of the Early Primary Education Project, stipulates that children who have a good early education beginning at age three have fewer learning problems, less delinquency, higher employability, greater productivity, more self-sufficiency and are characterized by fuller participation in economic life than children who do not.

"The Dave Whycark research paper has stated, 'That for every dollar a society invests in quality early childhood programs, the return is \$7.'

"We formally request you, the government, to mandate the junior kindergarten program now.

"We further expect all parties to put aside their own political differences and cooperate in legislating this program for the benefit of all children. The time to act is now. The educational needs of these children must be attended to or we, as a society and province, will have failed."

This petition is signed by over 1,000 people who share this very urgent concern.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I have a petition here to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation of the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process, resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings; and

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report would lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially becoming economically unviable,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I will affix my name to this petition.

TAXATION

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here, and I'll read it.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren,

Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with any additional tax on real estate gains."

That's been signed by 12 people from my riding.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I have a petition signed by 61 constituents, and it reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:

"1. resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to the taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately, and

"2. repeal the discriminatory and unconstitutional Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, in the province, and all areas designated as French-language."

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 31 Middlesex constituents, who urge the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the report for the greater London area by arbitrator John Brant. Many of us in Middlesex have grave concerns regarding the size of the annexation and recommendations within the report. This is an issue of the utmost importance. I have signed my name to this petition.

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): I have a petition, with the same preamble, to the Legislature of Ontario.

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I too have signed my name to that petition.

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature with the same preamble as the previous two:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I affix my signature.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Reports by committees.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): The member for Mississauga West was making a hasty exit and I assured him that this was an all-party committee; he didn't have to be so sensitive about sitting beside me.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Pursuant to standing order 58(a), I beg leave to present a report from the standing committee on estimates on the

estimates selected and not selected by the standing committee for consideration.

Reading dispensed with [See Votes and Proceedings].

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 58(b), the report of the committee is deemed to be received and the estimates of the ministries and offices named therein as not being selected for consideration by the committee are deemed to be concurred in.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI DE LA TAXE SUR L'ESSENCE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act / Loi portant modification de la Loi de la taxe sur l'essence.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Please check and see if there's a quorum present, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1555

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: A quorum is now present, Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for York Centre, you have the floor.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: With all due respect, when debate resumed the member for York Centre was not in the House. He only returned after the quorum call.

The Deputy Speaker: The point of order was raised and was recognized immediately. That is the rule. The member for York Centre.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I recall—

Mr Mahoney: Go for an hour.

Mr Sorbara: I thank my whip for indulging me for an hour on this topic. I don't propose to be very long at all. I think we can move resolutely through this issue.

As I recall, when we adjourned this House yesterday afternoon we had just heard a rather long and, I think, regrettable speech from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Interjection.

Mr Sorbara: My friend across the way thought it was a great speech. It certainly was a great speech for us, I tell him, because if we could simply send the videotape of that rhetoric and nonsense from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology around to the business community and remind it that this is the kind of representation it has in the cabinet of Ontario, I think what little support there might be for the New Democrats among fairminded people in the province would dwindle even further.

We're debating Bill 86. We're debating a further levy of 3.4 cents on the cost of a litre of gasoline. We're debating a matter that was introduced in a budget that has already been discredited over the course of the past year. I remind my colleagues in the House that we are still debat-

ing last year's budget. I think the fact we have not even been able to proceed with the legislation arising from last year's budget is itself a commentary on the ability of this government to manage matters in this House and manage them effectively.

I want to spend just a few minutes on the substance of this legislation. It's pretty simple. It's pretty straightforward. It's pretty easy stuff. The members of the government shouldn't have very much difficulty with the issues relating to this rather simple bill.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Are you simple-minded?

Mr Sorbara: My friend the member for Cochrane South says we're simple-minded. Therein I have to agree with him: The matter is simple. What the Treasurer did last year, in the face of advice from all over the province that he shouldn't do this, was levy an additional 3.4 cents on the cost of a litre of gasoline.

Yesterday the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, when he was speaking on the issue, went over the history of tax increases on gasoline from time immemorial to the present, but that's not the issue. The issue for us was: Was it a good idea for the Treasurer to put this additional levy on gasoline at that time in that budget? The answer has clearly been for the past year, "No more taxes on gasoline." "No more taxes, period," the people are saying. "We can't bear any more taxes. We're losing our jobs. We can't pay our mortgages. We can't pay the rent. Our friends and our family are going to food banks and we can't bear additional taxation, but in particular we can't bear more tax on gas. We can't pay this additional three cents."

Listen to the people of Windsor, for example. Listen to the gas station owners of Windsor who said to us, and are still saying, that this levy was the straw that broke the camel's back. That was the levy, along with additional taxes on gasoline and cigarettes, that has sent a whole community across the border to do its shopping in Detroit. Listen to the people of Cornwall, listen to the people of Sault Ste Marie, I tell the government members. Listen to the people of Thunder Bay. Listen to the people throughout the north of the province, who have said to us, and I suggest have said to you: "We spend so much more time travelling; gas for us is so much more a factor in the monthly bills we pay. We can't afford to pay more," they said a year ago when the Treasurer levied this additional tax.

It's clear what should have been done at that time. In retrospect, the magic the Treasurer could have exacted would have been even a slight, symbolic reduction in the cost of a litre of gasoline. Just a slight reduction would have given the people of this province a sense of hope. That was the one tax measure that could have given us all a sense that the government was going in the right direction, because it affects virtually all of us.

It had a particular effect on border communities. They just gave up hope. Mr Speaker, I know you travel around the province a lot and I know you've heard the same thing

I've heard, at the time of that budget and over the past year, the very same thing: "We've given up hope."

I went to Windsor, in fact, shortly after the budget was brought down. The first thing I heard was that several gas stations had closed as a result of the budget increases, that there was just no more business. People simply didn't buy gasoline in Windsor any more.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: In looking across the way, I notice that there are only two Liberals and two Conservatives in the House, and I don't believe we have a quorum present.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1603

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is now present.

Mr Sorbara: I quickly say to my friend the member for Downsview that it's your government House leader who is so anxious to get this bill passed. If he wants to delay the debate and make quorum calls, that's up to him. He can explain to his constituents why at one and the same time he's trying to delay the passage of this bill and will, when the vote comes, stand up and vote in favour of the Treasurer's measure. I say to him that it's the people—

The Deputy Speaker: Please debate the bill.

Mr Sorbara: I say to him that this bill affects the people in the riding of my friend the member for Downsview. It's this bill that they've said represents the last straw in taxation.

The one measure the Treasurer could have brought forward, as I was saying before the quorum call, is a slight reduction in the cost of a litre of gasoline.

What would that have done? Just look at what would have happened in border communities. Gas station owners would have said: "Ah. Maybe I can make it through the summer and the fall and the winter months. Maybe, as a result of this little reduction, I can do a few other things to encourage people to buy gas in this community." Retailers would have said, "My goodness, it looks like the government has heard our plea, has understood that these kind of measures, these taxation measures, have a dramatic effect on cross-border shopping."

We could have done something very important for border communities. We didn't, and we saw what happened. We saw the job losses. You see the stores for rent in Windsor. You see the stores for rent in Cornwall. You see the stores for rent in Niagara Falls. You see the stores for rent all around the province.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): It's called a recession.

Mr Sorbara: My friend says it's called the recession. It certainly is, and this budget increase, this 3.4 cents a litre, has helped this recession expand into 1992 in ways he probably doesn't even realize.

It's not only border communities that would have benefited from a tax break on gasoline. It's also people in northern communities. As I said earlier, the cost of transportation for those who live in our northern communities is far greater than what we who live in more densely populated urban areas spend. You just have to talk to the people from

the north to find out how much of the monthly paycheque goes into transportation. You get in a car and you drive for an hour or two hours to get to your destination, whereas here in more densely populated areas the trip is maybe 15 or 20 minutes.

So northerners would really have benefited from a tax break on gasoline, but what did we get? A Treasurer who said: "I'm not interested in the benefits of a tax break on gasoline. We're going to collect 3.4 cents additional per litre of gasoline."

A tax break on gas is as well the kind of tax measure that can have a generally beneficial effect on the average citizen around the province. It helps. It's not everything, it doesn't solve all the problems in the world, but it's a gesture and it helps. It could have been the one thing in an otherwise now completely discredited budget.

Even the Treasurer has had to admit four times over the course of the last year that his budget was not working, just as he will have to do with the budget he recently presented to the House. That one measure, I say through you, Mr Speaker, to the Minister of Energy, who's listening attentively—he knows, as the Minister of Energy, how critical these little messages can be and how much it can affect the pocketbook of the average working woman or man in the province of Ontario.

I wonder whether, during that time of budget-making a year ago last March, the Minister of Energy made a pitch on behalf of his residents for a little break on the cost of gasoline. I suspect the answer is that he did not.

A tax break on gasoline, something we had been arguing for throughout the budget debate subsequent to last year's budget, is something that has fallen on ears that will not listen.

We're not debating this year's budget, so I'm not going to comment other than by way of a passing reference to the \$1 billion additional taxation that we see in this year's budget. The additional tax of last year wasn't enough for the Treasurer. I simply say to you, sir, that the people of this province have said: "We can't take any more taxation. We can't afford to pay. Metro's taxes are going up 14%. School taxes are going up all over the province. We can't take any more."

It's no wonder this budget measure has been such a difficult measure for this Legislature to pass, because in the face of an economy that has been reeling in recession for over two years now we haven't seen one single thing, in two budgets from this Treasurer, to relieve the pressure.

Last year's budget was hailed as this government's attempt to fight the recession with more spending and more taxation: 3.4 cents a litre, says Bill 86, on the cost of a litre of gasoline. The people of this province should remember that when they go to the pump to fill up their tanks with gasoline: In the first budget of the New Democratic Party, in the face of a terrible recession, record high unemployment and the worst economic times, admitted by the Premier, since the Great Depression—the second Great Depression, as I call it—during that time the Treasurer had the audacity to say, "And we're going to make you pay more to get to work, we're going to make you pay more to go on your holidays, we're going to drive business out of our border

communities, we're going to make it more difficult for northerners and the average man and woman who work in this province are going to have a tougher time because we want to spend an additional 14.5% over the last Liberal budget to pay off the friends who got us elected."

That's the real budget. The real budget of 1991 was a big NDP payoff to its friends. Where did they get the money? From those of us who drive around in this province in our cars.

1610

Look at how difficult it was for retailers, Mr Speaker, particularly in border communities. I recall visiting Windsor shortly after the budget. I looked at the gas stations in Windsor, and a litre of regular gasoline cost 54.5 cents. Then I went across the border into Detroit and it was 37.5 cents a litre when you combined all the factors you have to combine, including converting litres to American gallons and Canadian dollars into American cents. What option do the people have? Are they foolish? Can they not count? Do they have no sense? They have no money, but they have a good deal of sense. They say: "We have no option. We fill up our tanks in Detroit now." While they're over there, they buy a case of beer and it costs half the price, and if they are smokers, they buy a pack of cigarettes or a carton of cigarettes and it costs a third of what they pay in Windsor. While they're there, they shop like any reasonable citizen might.

We have been asking the government for over a year now to come to grips with this problem. We have been asking the government to give the merchants in Ontario, and particularly in border communities, the freedom to decide whether or not they're going to open their stores on Sunday. We have been asking the government to reconsider this harmful tax on gasoline in light of the depression and in light of the differential between 54.5 cents a litre in Ontario and 37.5 cents in Michigan and New York state. The government has done nothing, and then it's surprised that this bill takes a while to pass in the House.

They criticize us for opposing, for wanting to speak to the issue, for wanting to remind the people of Ontario that when they pay more at the pumps in the midst of this vicious recession, it's because of a government that is insensitive, that is out of touch and that had the audacity to raise the cost of gasoline during this depression.

I simply encourage the government members who are really concerned, not about their political careers but about the interests of their community, to stand

up for the people of the province when we vote on this bill and oppose this tax and force the Treasurer to rewrite that budget of a year ago and give the people of the province what they really deserve, that is, a refund of the millions and millions of dollars the Treasurer has taken by way of this tax measure.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orilio): I'd like to compliment my colleague Mr Sorbara, the member for York Centre, for very thoughtful remarks in the debate on Bill 86. I think what he has said is very significant, because he laid out the

history of where this tax originated from, he put it in the context of the damaging fiscal policies of the Treasurer of last year, and in that context he has made us all realize how misguided the fiscal policy was in raising taxes in the midst of a recession.

He has pointed out to us the impact on jobs and job loss. Since this government came into power we've seen almost 300,000 jobs lost in this province.

He also pointed out very well the impact on cross-border shopping, which this NDP government has not only ignored but exacerbated, made worse, by its misguided policy of increasing gasoline taxes.

The one thing that all of us in this House know lures people from border communities across the border is the differential in gas price. The mayor's task force asked the government to allow a differential to be reduced in those border communities, and that met with silence from the government side.

I want to compliment my colleague. I think he spoke extremely well on behalf of his constituents, as he always does, but more, I think he showed a real understanding of the impact of Bill 86. I think he pointed out to the government and to the Treasurer some alternatives they should consider.

Mr Mahoney: I'm surprised that members of the government aren't interested in commenting on the thoughtful presentation by my colleague, but if they're not, I'm delighted to do so myself. I want to congratulate the member, and I know the member for York Centre has a lot of concern, for example, about the impact this gasoline tax has on the small business community.

Is there a problem?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): No, that's fine. Go ahead.

Mr Mahoney: Are you going to put 30 seconds back on the clock then for that little bit of confusion? Mr Speaker, nice to see you back.

I believe this member understands that impact, and we had some alternatives put forward. I hear them say, "It's time the opposition stop just criticizing and put forward some alternatives." You heard the member for St Catharines put an alternative to the Treasurer, to take away from this what he refers to as an auto workers' tax, because in fact you're penalizing the auto workers in putting this tax in place. He put forward an alternative that I thought made a lot of sense, and this opposition is continuing to do that because we know you're having such difficulty coming up with alternatives that make any sense to the people in the small business community.

Just think about the impact if you are running a business with five or six trucks that you need to deliver your product around the community. Just think of the impact this has on your operating costs, and what it could do if you put more money back into the hands of the small business operator. Just maybe that person could afford to hire somebody else; just maybe that business could afford not to lay people off in times of recession.

You are just a little backwards. You think the way to solve the recession is to tax more and take money away

from people, when you should be doing exactly the opposite.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I just want to comment as well on the previous speaker's comments. I think what we've got is a situation where, as he pointed out, we've got these tax increases coming—this year it's the gasoline tax, then next year we go to the percentage of the personal income tax—and what we seem to be doing, as was pointed out, is just rotating the taxes. We increase them a little bit this year, 3.4 cents, ahead of the rate of inflation. Next year it goes to the percentage of the personal income tax, and it almost seems like we have a situation where they look down and see the revenue that is coming in from the various sources and say, "On odd years we increase the gasoline taxes; on even years we increase the personal income taxes," and it's this legacy of layer upon layer of taxes that I think gets to us.

It's interesting that we point out that it isn't any one specific tax like this particular bill, the gasoline tax. That's on top of everything else, with the increase in the property taxes and the increases that are coming at all levels of government. That is where the cumulative effect gets us.

As we sit here today, as we pointed out, the 3.4, which is relatively high versus the rate inflation, has a cumulative effect on top of everything else. I will expand a little bit on that as we go on into the next speaker, but I think it's very important to realize that what we're looking at here will affect, as he said, the border towns. I think the key factor in Bill 86 is, what will it do to the border towns?

Unfortunately, in this day and age we are so close to border towns. Virtually 90% of the population in this province can get to a border town very quickly, and it is those people who are the ones who are crossing the border and filling up with gasoline. So I think people in this House would do well to listen to some of the comments being put forward.

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): Comments have already been made today that Mr Sorbara made some very interesting remarks, and of course he drew attention to a number of issues that are very important in terms of this gas tax.

What is becoming very clear today is that this additional tax is going to have a number of effects; it's obvious. One is the whole issue of visitors from the United States and other parts of the world. Tourism, there is no doubt, is going to be decimated by this tax. We are already experiencing, when we look at the numbers of tourists coming to Ontario, a really significant decline. Yes, it is true that about a year ago I asked the Minister of Tourism and Recreation how much tourism was down. If I recall correctly, he said it wasn't down by very much. But today, just about a year later, we know that the impact of whatever it is we're doing here is significantly reducing visitors coming to see our beautiful city and in fact to see Ontario.

The gas tax this government is now imposing on the people of Ontario is going to add significantly in order to destroy tourism. This will be what some people might term the last nail in the coffin. Of course we in this party are not here to ensure that tourism in Ontario will stop. Because it

is significant, we have to ensure this government understands that to go ahead with this tax is not in the best interests of Ontario.

There are other numbers of significant issues at stake and other effects that this tax will have on Ontario, but since I'm running out of time I will take another opportunity later to discuss the additional information I have.

1620

The Speaker: The honourable member for York Centre has two minutes to summarize his comments.

Mr Sorbara: I really appreciate the comments from my colleagues and regret that we didn't have some critical analysis from the government members. I appreciate indeed two points.

First is the point my friend the member for Mississauga West made in respect of the trucking industry because, again, when you look at a tax you have to see what the positive impact will be in terms of revenue and balance that against the negative impact on business. Do you remember, sir, the pain the trucking industry was in a year ago? They were asking government for some break or other. We had just gone through deregulation. The industry was being swamped by American competitors. Our industry said: "We can't compete. We've got a cost structure that is breaking us and making us uncompetitive in the market." A reduction in the cost of gasoline in that budget would have been a very positive signal to the trucking industry and would have helped that industry survive in a very difficult time.

My friend the member for Parkdale mentions tourism. This of course is another extremely important point. The loss in tourism during this recession has been unparalleled compared to any other time in our history, including the period of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Among other things it was the additional cost of gasoline that made it so difficult for our tourist operators to remain competitive. Those who had traditionally come to our tourist venues simply were not coming. The Americans were saying: "It's too expensive up in Canada. We can't afford gasoline." Indeed, last July, I was in North Bay and I spoke to Stan Lawlor, the mayor of North Bay. I recall him saying to me, "So far, Greg, I have seen 12 American licence plates," and this was at the height of their tourist season.

Who do we blame, sir? The government on the other side of this House that imposed that crippling tax.

The Speaker: Before continuing with debate, I beg to inform the House that pursuant to standing order 33, the member for Carleton has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Education concerning the Carleton Board of Education teachers' strike. This matter will be debated today at 6 pm.

Further debate, the member for Oakville South.

Mr Carr: I was very interested in the last comments from the member about the trucking industry. For those who probably don't know, my background came in the trucking industry. It goes back a little. I actually was a teamster who started out unloading the trucks during that period of time and I know it well. Through my career I was able to move up through the ranks and get involved in

the sales and marketing aspect of it. I've done everything from loading the trucks in the summertime, so I think I can speak with a little perspective about the truckers and what they're facing.

In fact, one of the companies I was with, a division of TNT, Alltrans, actually went out of business because of some of the high costs we're talking about. I think a lot of people don't appreciate where a lot of the cost for some of the truckers lies. A good portion of it is through the gasoline and the fuel. I suspect a lot of members don't realize that something that seems very small, like this Bill 86 with a 3.4-cent increase, really takes a dramatic increase when your overall costs of fuel are so high.

It was interesting to note that many of the trucking companies that were surviving during the period when I was involved in the industry, which I guess was after the hockey-playing days in the early 1980s—most of the Canadian companies—have struggled and have gone out of business. One of the things we did during the deregulation period was to assume we would be able to keep competing with the Americans on an even playing field. The problem is, the Americans have such cheap fuel. For those of you on the other side who don't know, some of these trucks have very large tanks, so what happens is that the US carriers will fill up in the US and virtually can run from here, the Detroit border, all the way through on US fuel.

In fact, what we're looking at here is a circumstance where the middle class is going to be hit as a result of this tax.

I'm always interested in standing up and talking about any taxes, because I believe, as I mentioned in the statement, that we have far too many taxes in far too many areas. I think, as we reflect on Bill 86 and the reason it came in place, we would do well to look at what this particular tax generates. For those of you who haven't had a chance to look through the budget books, whether it's this year or last year, going all the way back, the budget does outline where the taxation measures come from and where the gasoline tax is coming from.

This particular tax wasn't drawn out because people said it's a good thing and we'll introduce it. It has come as a result of the spending pressures that are there, and in order to meet those spending pressures they say, "Where are we going to find the revenue?" So they do as many treasurers do. They look down the budget, on page 81 of this year's, and they talk about the gasoline tax and they say: "Okay, we're going to increase it. How can we phase it in so that it doesn't affect people? But we need to get a bottom-line total." I think that's what happened. Even some of the speakers who talked about it yesterday talked about the 1.7 cents per litre.

What we're looking at are two phases in this. I think it's important to reflect what we're looking at, when you look at it, is the case of having to find the revenue. They look down, they see the personal income tax, they see the retail sales tax, which is the highest, then corporation tax, then the employer health payroll tax, which was slid in, and then gasoline taxes. The total cumulative that comes in from that would make it about the fourth or fifth total revenue for the government. I think that's why we're see-

ing the dramatic increases that have come about. With the spending pressures that are out there and the corresponding taxation pressures that are out there, they have to look at very, very large increases in tax revenue in order to meet the spending expenditures, even with the deficits that we're at and, of course, we're into the dramatic increases in the deficit regardless of how much we increase it with revenue.

Really I think it's important to reflect that's what this bill is all about. It's about trying to find more revenue for a government that is finding it very difficult over the last little while to meet its spending pressures.

As I said earlier, this really hits the middle class, because it's something that the average person can't do anything about. Now, there are some areas in my area where we have transit, but it really does affect the middle class, the working person out there, the man or woman who goes out every day, because they're the ones who are affected by this.

It was interesting to reflect this year that the Treasurer said he increased the percentage of the personal income tax because he thought it was a fairer tax. Last year he didn't say, however, when he increased the taxes with Bill 86, that this was an unfair tax. But this year, when he doesn't touch it—and I suspect the reason he didn't touch it this year is because of the dramatic increase last year—the reason is that he says this year the fairer tax is to increase your percentage of the personal income tax. I guess a year from now we will argue how fair that is, particularly when we see the percentage increase going on salaries over \$53,000. So what Bill 86 did last year has just been further heightened this year.

It seems almost like governments go down and they say, as I said earlier: "It's an even year so we're going to increase the gasoline tax. It's an odd year, so we'll lay off the corporation tax and then we'll go to personal income tax."

Mrs Caplan: It's not just the year that's odd.

1630

Mr Carr: Yes, it isn't just the year that's odd, as the member for Oriole points out. But that's essentially what we're looking at. Last year when we had these dramatic increases we didn't say anything about the middle class. Yet this year we talk about the percentage of the personal income tax being a fair way of doing it. I say the people who are going to be hurt by Bill 86 and the tax increases are the average working families which need to be able to get out and meet some of the demands and go to work, and in a lot of cases can't cut back. In Metro Toronto, of course, they can with some of the public transit and some of the other areas, but it makes it very difficult for the working men and women whom this tax affects.

The worst part is that during the last campaign the now Premier of this province went around and made all the promises and, as I mentioned, I think a lot of it is tied to the expenditures. He didn't talk about where the tax increases would be. He said, and I'll paraphrase a little bit: "Mike Harris is right. Taxes are too high. It's David Peterson's fault." But he didn't explain where the revenue

was coming from. I wish we'd been able to see very clearly during that summer of 1990 these dramatic increases. If people had known Bill 86 was coming in with the dramatic increases in gasoline, I suspect a lot of them might have made a bit of a change in the way they voted.

Because what the Premier said is, "We can have all the spending, we can have the Agenda for People with \$5 billion more, but don't worry; somebody else will pay." Through these measures and through Bill 86, we see very clearly that the people he was talking about are the average working man and woman who are being hit by this. So I would hope that some of the members opposite would reflect on that particular point. The very people who are being taxed to death, whether it's property taxes, whether it's the federal taxes, the municipal level or the provincial level, were looking for some type of help in terms of the tax rate that has been hitting them over the last little while. Bill 86 certainly does not help.

I want to touch on some of the people who are really being affected in some of the border towns. We had one of the members from I guess the Dylex corporation come in before the Sunday shopping committee. He was talking about some of the cross-border shopping issues, as they are related. He said, "You know, I can compete with the US, whether it's suits or sweatshirts," and I pointed out to him that this particular suit was a Tip Top one, so I remember he thanked me for that at the time. I remember my friend Mr Mills, the member for Durham East, also had a suit that was from the Tip Top corporation. He said: "We can compete, when it comes to suits and when it comes to sweatshirts and so on, with the Americans and cross-border shopping. The problem is that we can't compete with three items. Those three items are the cigarettes, the liquor and alcohol as well as the gasoline."

It's very interesting to see what lengths people will go to to not pay those taxes. Bill 86 will mean very clearly more people going across the border to fill up. It's similar to the taxation over cigarettes, the so-called sin tax. My constituency office was broken into about a month or so ago. They spent literally one hour tunnelling through the offices to get through to the variety store next door. We were amazed that they would break into an MPP's office, because of course we give everything in there away for free, whether it's brochures or government information. They went in to get the cigarettes because of the high taxation on those, which is similar to Bill 86 with the gasoline.

What you're looking at is that people will go to a lot of measures, whether it's to avoid cross-border shopping or whether it's buying cigarettes that have been stolen. They spent virtually an hour tunnelling through the walls of my constituency office because there was such a market for cigarettes on the black market nowadays. Of course, I was a little bit shocked when they had done that and I said to the policeman, "I guess it is strange that they would do this," and the officer said, "No, we get occurrences like this all the time." It's little wonder that we have people going across when we see the dramatic increases we've seen with Bill 86 in terms of the gasoline.

My son plays hockey. We went down to Rochester to participate in a tournament. I hadn't been over to the United States for many years. We went back. Ironically, Rochester was where I used to play and we had a chance to see some old friends. I was amazed at the lineups at the border coming back across. Of course, the big reason is that people are going over to fill up; you can get to 90% of this province within about an hour's period of time. I was shocked to see the lineup.

We actually had to plan how we would be coming back from Rochester and what night, because we knew the border was virtually going to be packed, as it often is. One of the reasons is that they go across to fill up on gasoline, and one of the reasons is that we increase it like this by 3.4 cents per litre and the people of this province get fed up and go to any lengths to try to avoid it.

As the other side said, it isn't because we need this taxation for the programs. The hardworking men and women right now who care about those programs are finding it tough to meet ends as it is now. They don't go across because they want to avoid paying taxes and not give the revenue to the province of Ontario. The reason they're going across is that they cannot afford it. I think most people would say, "Yes, we need the programs; we'll pay a little bit extra," but the people who go across are average working men and women who basically go across not in big cars, not in the big Corvettes or Porsches; they're going across trying to fill up because they are being stretched to the limit and will do anything to try to save a little bit of money.

The problem is that, as we realize it—and I guess most of us didn't till we got into this business—the total cents-per-litre cost is made up, very high proportionally, of taxes. As you know, there are different levels involved. People don't understand that. They don't understand that a little bit goes to the province in the percentage that goes in the increase with this particular tax. They don't understand what goes to the federal government. All they know is they cannot afford to fill up like they used to and they can't afford the pressures of the property taxes and other taxes, so they attempt to avoid it by fleeing to other jurisdictions. That's why we have the problems of cross-border shopping. The chap from Dylex said it best: "We can compete in all these other areas. What is killing us is the taxation levels, taxes on the booze, the cigarettes and the gasoline. That's why people are going."

How can you, as a retailer, compete with that? When people are going across, they'll fill up because of the taxes introduced as a result of this Bill 86. While they're over there, they'll pick up some of the other products as well because they happen to be over there. Quite frankly, I don't think it is people trying to cheat the system who are doing it; it is the average hardworking person in this province who said: "I'm sorry, I cannot afford it. Even if it is going to the best programs in the world, whatever they may be, whether it's health care, education or the environment, I cannot afford it any more." If they said that last year with this bill, they're really going to get a whack when they get their percentage of their personal income tax.

The problem is, as you look at the gasoline tax as a percentage of the budget, it is all driven by the expenditure side. If we could get a handle on our expenditures we wouldn't need to introduce these measures that come about. For some of the members who were there, I spent last year on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs doing the pre-budget hearings to introduce this piece of legislation, as well as this year. One of the problems with taxation is that when you increase it dramatically, as you do, the next year you often get less revenue out of it because people will do different things, whether it's stopping driving or going across to the border to fill up down there. You actually get a net decrease in revenue even though you increased the amount. That's at the level we were at both this year and the previous year as it relates to this particular piece of legislation. As the economists said, if you increase it any more, whether gasoline tax or a percentage of personal income tax, you're actually going to get less because people will flee the province because they want to have a job in Manitoba, Quebec or the United States. They'll also flee to afford some of the taxes for gasoline fuel and so on that are out there.

As I look through the catalogue of taxation over the last little while—and I'll go briefly through the gasoline taxes that have come up. We say with Bill 86, "It's just a small increase," but when you look at the legacy since 1985—as we refer to it, the catalogue of greed—they increased the gasoline tax a little bit this year and then the next year they rotate to something else. It's pages upon pages of tax increases. Again they go five cents per litre here, three cents here and two cents here. The cumulative effect seems to be that each government has tried to outdo the other in trying to have this tax grab. Pages and pages of tax increases have resulted. You can't point to just the gasoline taxes; it's the cumulative effect that has now made us the most highly taxed province in Canada and the most highly taxed jurisdiction in all of North America.

As a result of this bill, people will do whatever they have to to avoid the taxes that are so strangling the middle class. That's what's so unfair about it: It's the middle class that is paying the price for this. That's why I think Bill 86 is so detrimental to the economic wellbeing of this province. If we were able to control our expenditures, then surely we wouldn't need the tax grabs we see through Bill 86 here today.

1640

Last year, spending—and as we know, that's what drives the tax increases—was up dramatically; this year the same thing. I suspect next year we're going to have to have another gasoline tax. We'll call it something different. It will be Bill 96 or something. It will increase it a little bit, because we haven't been able to control our expenditure, which is going up 4.9%, well above the rate of inflation. In fact, these taxes that hit us on a per-litre basis take out a real whack percentage-wise. That's why we are the highest-taxed province, because of the cumulative effect of taxes such as this.

Instead of coming in when they had the chance in 1990 and saying, "Here we are, we've come in, and we realize the Liberals were defeated over the tax issue, so we're

going to try to attempt to control them," they've done the same thing. They're in the midst of rotating the taxes.

I say very clearly to the members, there will never be any opportunity for tax relief on gasoline or the percentage of personal income tax or any taxes until we get our chronic overspending in this province under control. That's why people are fleeing across the border. That's why we have people like myself who are shocked when they go over there for hockey tournaments and other things to see the tremendous lineups. It's just as bad down in the Kingston area. I suspect even in the Oakville-Burlington area, people go across.

In one of the places very close to my constituency office, the chap who runs the gas station has had to move his particular station into a higher traffic area in Burlington. He said the reason is that even people from the Oakville-Burlington area are going across to fill up. So it doesn't just hit the Windsors, the Niagara Falls and some of the other people we hear about; it stretches well into our province. That's why we have the situation we have.

Again, going back to November, we talked about the gasoline tax in our New Directions: A Blueprint for Economic Renewal and Prosperity in Ontario. We touched on that issue as well as some of the other issues. I wanted to share a few thoughts with you on what we said in that particular piece. We talked about spending controls, but on page 23, we say: "Gasoline and fuel taxes should be immediately cut by 10%. This would benefit all sectors...including transportation," which we've heard about and which I've talked about from my background as a Teamster and then as a member of management of a company in that industry.

It would benefit the transportation industry and the tourism industry, which is such a big part of us. As we all know, tourism is such a big factor in this great province of ours. They're the ones who are being hurt, because a lot of Americans are coming up here, seeing the cost of our fuel and the increases through Bill 86, and saying: "To heck with it, we'll stay at home. We'll go to Rochester. We'll go anywhere where we don't have to pay the high prices for gasoline." They are shocked, quite frankly.

As well, there is manufacturing. As you know, a lot of the cost of manufacturing—being the critic for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology—is passed on. When you increase these taxes and take a lot of revenue out of the average working person, that affects all industries. People who would have gone out to buy new suits can't do it because of the bigger slice they're paying as a direct result of taxation in the province. We talk about that.

We talk about some of the things we would do, going back virtually a year ago. One of the things we said very clearly is, "Do not increase any taxes." That's why it gets a little frustrating for the Premier to stand up and say, "We want to work with the opposition," because when we present a proposal—and by the way, we also talked about where the expenditures would come from to replace that 10% revenue drop. So it wasn't just a case of saying, "Don't do it" and "Cut it." On page 23, we talk about some of the expenditure controls and how we would save there. What drives this whole process of revenue is the expenditure

side, so we tried to be practical in calling for that. That's why we believe very strongly that this particular piece of legislation will be bad for the people.

What we've got is almost like a lottery. When the Treasurer sits back and decides on his budget, that's basically what he does. He looks at the revenue and holds a lottery. He spins the dial and says, "What will we increase?" Last year it was the gasoline tax. Then he turns around this year and says, "No, what we've got to do is be a little more"—I forget the exact words he used. "We have to be fair, so we'll increase the percentage of personal income tax," when last year what he did with Bill 86 and the gas tax was hit the average person and hit them very heavily with these increases. Basically that's what we've done: We spin the wheel, and we picked a tax last year and we pick a tax this year.

The problem with being what is referred to as employed or a breadwinner here in Ontario is that the government is in for such a big slice now. This bill, Bill 86, is going to really take a whack out of the average person who can't afford it. That will be compounded with property tax increases because of the downloading because of the transfer payments, and that is also talked about in A Blueprint for Economic Renewal.

We talked about the gasoline tax as being a major component to transportation, tourism and manufacturing. I think a lot of people don't realize that when you take money out of the system through taxes, what you do is penalize a lot of people in the retail industry and in the manufacturing industry, because people are not spending. That's why we have the problem we have right now: People are not spending. They aren't spending because they don't need a new shirt, a new coat, shoes for the kids; they're not spending right now because they're going to spend more and more of their money paying taxes like this particular tax.

All you need to do is look at the bottom line as the percentage of the gross domestic product. In 1985, taxes represented about 8.8%; now it's up to 12%. It's inch by inch. Things like this gasoline tax, this Bill 86, inch it up a little bit this year, compounded on the inching up that went on through the previous years and the legacy of greed, the 55 tax increases. That's why we are here right now with the average citizen, people of low income, middle income and high income, feeling so many of the effects of the tax increases.

I guess that's why so many people are disappointed with this government and this particular legislation, because they believed the Premier in the summer of 1990 when he said, "Yeah, your taxes are too high, but somebody else will pay for it." Well, he didn't tell them it was going to be through gasoline taxes. I guess that's a little of the reason we get so cynical about politicians at all levels and, unfortunately, of all political parties, because during that period of time when everybody realized we were facing a tax crisis, he never once said we would be increasing them dramatically. If they knew what he was doing this year, I suspect it would have been worse.

As I read through this piece of legislation over the last couple of nights, the increase on unleaded gasoline going

up 1.7 cents, I got a comparison of where some of the tax revenue goes. I think there was mention by a couple of the other speakers of exactly what percentage of it is taxes. We see the 1.7 cent per litre, and we don't realize that the provincial share of the taxation keeps going up. It squeezes everything out when it comes to the revenue of the oil companies, because in there you've got dealer margins, the provincial tax, the federal excise tax, the goods and services tax, the refinery manufacturing cost, and you've got the crude oil transportation.

The one that's increasing most is the provincial tax because of bills like Bill 86. You've got the federal well-head share, you've got the provincial wellhead share—whatever that is—you've got the industry wellhead share, upstream operating cost payments, crude oil. The big increases, when you look at it on a year-by-year basis in Ontario, is the percentage of the provincial sales tax. In comparison to other provinces across this country, you can't blame that on other levels of government, because versus BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba we have been the real grabbers of tax revenue at every area that's listed here, but in particular with gasoline over the last little while.

So that's why the Treasurer starts out every year looking at the budget as he does and says, "Okay, where does my revenue come from? Well, the gasoline tax gives me basically the fourth-largest share of it. Let's inch it up a little bit here," instead of doing what we've called for and what I believe needs to be done, which is controlling expenditures.

1650

What we're looking at in this bill is a dramatic increase in government picking the pockets of the average person in this province. In our minority opinion, going way back to the cross-border shopping issue, we talked about the gasoline issue, not only in New Directions but in the minority report of the finance and economic affairs committee looking specifically at cross-border shopping, because the people who came there—I wasn't on the committee at the time. The member for Etobicoke West and, I guess, the member for Carleton were on it at that time. But I read the report, and what we said in there in the minority report—which obviously wasn't adhered to by the government, because of Bill 86 and the dramatic increases; they obviously didn't listen—is that the cross-border shopping issue is directly related to gasoline taxes imposed by the 1991 budget.

We put together in that particular report—I don't know how many of the members of the House had a chance to read it, but that's what we said needs to be done to avoid the cross-border shopping issue that is devastating this province, right from the eastern all the way through to the western part of this province.

That's why we've got retailers, like the people from Dylex and Tip Top, coming in and saying, "The reason we can't compete is because of governments." I will say that they took a shot at all governments too. They talked about the gasoline tax, like this Bill 86, but they took some shots at some other ones as well. They said, "As a manufacturer we can compete." We spent a lot of time talking about

training. They said: "Our employees are trained. We've got good employees. It isn't that they don't know how to operate and can't compete with the Americans, but the problem is that governments are the problem with the taxation increases we've got over the last little while."

That is why the situation arises. The retailers and the manufacturers that support the retail industry are saying it is the government that's at fault. It's not the workers in the store who can't compete; it's the fact that through your gasoline tax you're driving people out, and the people you're driving out are the hardworking men and women.

The current gasoline tax looks dramatic when you see the increases over the last little while and when you compare it to the other provinces. I'll just briefly do that before I wrap up. I understand there's a couple of other members. I know the member for Oriole and the member for Etobicoke West wanted to say a few things on taxes as well.

When you look at the increase, we've got taxes across this province where we are inching up to try and beat the other provinces. In some areas and some taxation we aren't, but we're inching up on the unleaded, and on the leaded we are the highest taxed of all the provinces. Then on the unleaded we are right there at the top, third, very close to second versus the other provinces.

That's why with this Bill 86, when you increase them like this, you're simply adding another layer to a province that is taxed out, that can't afford it any more, and that's why a lot of people are fleeing, and it's leading to some of the crime, like the situation over at my office with the break-in, and it's why people are leaving.

I think it's important to note that with taxation on this Bill 86, which is what we're talking about, I had a talk with a chap regarding the taxation when the gas guzzler came in and they were going to add the \$75. He said, "If you told people that we were going to add \$75 to the price of your car and we were going to wash it for \$75, they'd pay it in a minute and say, 'That's great, away you go.' When you immediately tell them that it's going to the government in the form of taxation, whether it's provincial"—like this particular tax—"or federal or municipal, they immediately rear up their backs and say, 'Uh-uh, I'm not giving them one more dime.'"

It isn't even the amount. It is just the fact that people in this province, whether it be the gas guzzler or this tax, are taxed to death and can't afford it any more.

That's why we see the resentment that is out there towards taxation. That's why we see the protests that are out there. You won't see people coming out and talking about protests over this particular bill, because the average person is saying what we've got is a cumulative effect. We nickel-and-dime them to death, up a little bit here, up a little bit there, Bill 86, next year it's a percentage of the personal income tax, the year later we go back to the gasoline tax, and I suspect next year we'll need to be probably not quite as dramatic as this, the 3.4.

But the problem is that even the members, when they talked about this bill, didn't know what the amount was. They were talking about the 1.7. It's phased in. There are two. Again, I think that was just because they hadn't read

it. That's what the problem is. We have these increases, and then we phase them in over two whacks at people over a period of time like we did. That's why we're up 3.4.

When you look at it and when you relate to it, the cost of marketing—most people think the gasoline companies are the ones that get all the increases. It's the provincial government and the federal government through their taxes that are taking a whack out of it.

I know the gasoline and the oil companies are now putting out a pamphlet, which you may have seen. You can pick it up at any garage, any Shell, any Imperial or any Petro-Canada station. They're outlining what the costs are, because they want people to know that it's taxation, because it's a hidden tax. Until they brought it out, most people weren't aware of it. They just pay the cents per litre and aren't aware of where the money is going. When we see the prices fluctuate we think the company is getting a lot of it, but the problem we've got is that the governments through their quest, through their inability to control expenditures, need to have these dramatic increases.

These are a few of the thoughts on this particular bill. As you know, during the last campaign we spent a lot of time talking about the tax issues and we'll continue to bring them up at every opportunity. I say to the members on the other side that if we in this province could ever learn to control our expenditures we wouldn't need to have Bill 86, where we increase them a little bit here, a little bit there.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I do not think there is a quorum present. I think the words of the member for Oakville South would be of benefit to everyone.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1659

Mr Carr: I hope I didn't break the microphone in the interlude. For those members who were quietly sitting in their offices watching me on TV and who probably wanted to tape me and weren't here, I won't start over unless you want me to.

Interjections.

Mr Carr: Some of the members are taping it. You can catch it on the late show tonight, those of you who didn't.

But it is important, because what we're talking about is a cumulative effect of taxation where right now people are saying to us as legislators that they cannot afford it any more. I would say to the government, which I know will be intent on pushing ahead with this bill and I suspect a year later we'll be debating the percentage of the personal income tax—if we could do anything but just say it to you—"Let's take a hard look at some of the expenditures so we don't need to do it, because the people who are going across the border to fill up to try to avoid the gasoline tax, like Bill 86. They are not doing it because they are bad people. They are not doing it because they don't care about the hospitals and they are not doing it because they don't care about education or their kid's education. They are doing it because they do not have any more money."

I know that similarly to many of the members who have three young kids, when you are trying to raise a family it is very difficult even when you have a job. Lord knows there are a lot of people who do not have the jobs and who are even in worse shape.

We say to you that you are probably going to pass this bill, but let's take a look at it because the people you are hurting the most are the people to whom you said in the summer of 1990 you were going to help them; that is, the average person. I say to you that when you pass this, you let them down. You let them down because the people honestly, truly are fatigued with taxes at all levels and through all parties and they have done it municipally, federally and provincially.

We're not going to change your mind on this one, but hopefully let's not have the roulette wheel next year where the Treasurer of this province spins it and says, "Well, we didn't have a gasoline tax so it's back to that again," because people can't afford it. All you will do, as every economist will tell you, in terms of supply and demand, is drive more people to find alternatives across the border. The people who will be hurt are the people who don't deserve it; quite frankly, they are the people who have made this province the greatest province in the greatest country in the world.

I will conclude my remarks and say to all members present that I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts with them. Let's get a handle on the taxation, because the people don't deserve it.

Mr Ruprecht: I didn't know my colleague wanted to say a few words. If he had mentioned anything to me, I certainly would have sat down because I know his remarks are going to be right on the button. But I'm also sure that he will be able to speak right after me.

The member for Oakville South makes an important point. In fact, he makes a number of important points, but one that everyone in Ontario ought to listen to: When you add up all the taxes this jurisdiction has, federal, provincial, municipal, school board taxes, and you add on a tax on gasoline, you are really placing a nail in the coffin of Ontario. That has got to stop.

We are asking the government today to stop this nonsense of adding taxes upon taxes upon taxes. Two years ago, the members who were in the opposition said to this government: "Stop. You're already increasing too many taxes, which is going to cut into jobs." Today they are the government, and I would be very surprised if their tune would be changed today. What we're asking for now is to be reasonable, because what you're doing is to destroy the very competitiveness of Ontario. I think what the member for Oakville South has said is hitting it right on the nail.

Tourism is already down, and I think tourism might go down in future to an even greater degree. But this will be even more destructive in that it is going to undercut the edge Ontario had vis-à-vis the United States: our competitiveness. If we don't stop this tax, if we don't stop destroying to some degree the transportation industry, the tourism industry, and the very people of the middle class who support all these programs this government is introducing,

we're going to be in very bad shape, and in the future we may not be able to compete on the international front.

Mrs Marland: I want to commend the member for Oakville South for his comments on this very significant piece of legislation of this Bob Rae socialist government. It's significant only in its devastating impact on the people of this province. When you talk about gasoline and the cost of gasoline, you're not talking about a luxury. Most people do not drive their trucks, their vans, their commercial vehicles for luxury, and a large number of people do not even drive their privately owned family vehicles for luxury. They drive them because they need to, they do not have a choice; if they're in business and industry they certainly don't have a choice. When people have no alternative form of transportation, then they have to pull up at that service station, fill their vehicle, whichever category of vehicle it is, with gasoline, at whatever the cost of gasoline currently is.

What we have with this government is a further demonstration that it really doesn't care. They don't care that this province now, today, is full of beleaguered people who cannot make it, simply cannot make it. When this government decides it's okay to increase the gasoline tax yet once more, it's saying to the people of this province: "We don't care. You'll manage some way. We, the government, need the money."

Well, I say this government has money. Their big problem is that they don't know how to prioritize in terms of spending the money, and their fiscal mismanagement is grossly evident.

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I listened intently as my colleague the member for Oakville South spoke today on this. Considering the debate we've heard on this bill so far, I think his comments have probably been more on the debate of this bill than any other comment we've heard so far.

One thing we must remember, though, is that taxes and tax increases are not always an easily acceptable part of the responsibilities that we have as Ontario citizens. Tax cuts we've heard about from the opposition members are really interesting. I would suggest that I would be concerned enough to allow them to respond and talk about some alternatives they have suggested.

In our budget, as we just introduced it not too long ago, we talked about maintaining services, keeping the deficit in check, which is so important, and jobs through additional programs. All those do of course happen through revenues, which are part of how the government works.

Concerning the gasoline taxes that have been referred to, if all Ontario gasoline taxes were removed from the price of a litre of gasoline, we'd still have a larger amount to pay for gasoline in this province than we would if we were across the border. I guess that's kind of—it doesn't really bear relationship to the cross-border issue.

The member also spoke about the surtax and the \$53,000 amount. Now, 90% of the people of this province aren't going to be affected by the surtax. I don't think I

could find even 10% of the people in my riding who would make that \$53,000 mark. It's incredible.

Earlier today a petition was presented by the member for Mississauga South about junior kindergarten. I thought that was really important, because this is of course a program that is funded through taxation, and it's really something we should pay close heed to.

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): I want primarily to make the point that it seems to me that this government, as pointed out so well by the member for Oakville South, is showing either great political bravado or great political folly in moving towards a tax increase in the current political climate. To be sure, it's a few cents per litre, but as the member for Oakville South pointed out, it's a few cents here and a few cents there, and it's a few cents provincially and a few cents federally and a few cents municipally. It's taxes on top of taxes on top of taxes. The government is showing great bravado or great folly in moving towards tax increases at this time.

We may know that we have the finest education system in the world, and we may know that we have a good health care system, and we may know that we have a good social welfare net, but to say to the people of Ontario that we need tax increases now to support this program or that program or some other program is the wrong answer. The constituents know they just can't pay more. The businesses in Ontario know they just can't shoulder more.

The right answer is that we need taxes held constant, perhaps taxes rolled back in selective cases. That's the right answer. Citizens know there is just too much taxation, too much regulation and too much government.

A moment ago, the member for Parkdale showed me a headline that pointed out that municipalities across Canada are dealing with a cash shortage by slashing their services. In Ontario we don't want to slash services. We don't want to be in a position where we have to embark on radical cutbacks because of a dead economy.

The time to do something about that is now. We have to pay attention to sound fiscal management, and I invite my colleagues on all sides of the House to join with our party in pledging to hold the line on taxes and to take a very searching look at the growth and expenditure of government.

The Speaker: The member for Oakville South, two minutes to wrap up.

Mr Carr: I appreciate the comments from all the members. I tried to speak about what it was really about, rather than ranting and raving about the taxes, and talk about the long term. I realize that this tax increase will probably go through, unfortunately, but I think we have seen things change in a year. A year ago the members on the government side were championing, saying that's great. Now that we've got them talking about a few things, they realize that the higher deficits will mean higher taxes. It's taken a year, but the process has worked.

I think all members on all sides are realizing now that some of the way we operated, and I guess that's the same in all areas, whether it's in business or whether you're working or so on—that things are different, and the way

we operated in the past is no longer acceptable. That's what happens in the workplace, and it's the same with the government.

1710

I'm hoping that the old ways of doing things, where we go down the list and say, "Boy, the gasoline tax is an easy hit so let's give her a spin," and the only question is whether it will be one cent, two cents, three cents—hopefully we'll be at the point where we realize this can't be done any more and then we'll take a step out of the old ways of doing things which governments for too long have done and which have made us now the highest-taxed province in Canada and the highest-taxed jurisdiction in North America.

I say it for the people out there who are feeling that. With all the problems we have, we can't continue to do it because the people of the province are fed up. They won't come after us over Bill 86—this one will go through—but they will come after us with the total effect at the end of the day, the bottom line. They will take a look at the revenue you had before and the revenue you had after, the percentage of the personal income tax, your gasoline tax, your liquor taxes, and that's how you'll be judged.

I don't think I'm going to change you on this, but let's take a hard look at it. Let's put the pressure on the Treasurer to control costs. Then we will be able to afford the opportunity for tax release for the beleaguered people of Ontario.

Mrs Caplan: I'm pleased to rise today as the new Revenue critic for the official opposition.

[Applause]

Mrs Caplan: Thank you. It's a task that I'm enjoying already and looking forward to. I use the term "enjoying." I know many of my constituents ask me if I'm enjoying the role as the member of the official opposition and as a critic. I think the reason they ask me that question is they know I had the opportunity to serve in government between 1985 and 1990 and they're curious to know whether I find the role as a member of the official opposition critic for the Ministry of Revenue, critic for the new treasury board and Management Board, as enjoyable.

I want to take this opportunity, because I know many of my constituents watch the debates in the House, to say that when I stood for elected office as Liberal candidate in the riding of Oriole I did so because I wanted to serve my constituents in this great Legislature. I didn't know what role I would have as a member of this Legislature. I did not know because there's no certainty. The determination of whether you serve as a member of the government or as a member of the official opposition is made by the people of the province in all 130 ridings. It's made when we see how many people are elected in each of those ridings from each of the different political parties. As we know, the leader of the party that wins the greatest number of seats forms the government and becomes the Premier. He or she, as the case may be in the future, then selects the members of the government, the members of cabinet. For those who are not in the government caucus, the additional

role to the role as the member of provincial Parliament for their specific riding is that of member of the opposition.

I can recall back to 1984 when I decided to seek office for the very first time at the provincial level, with a view to really hoping to win—I remember I was asked in 1980 if I would run for provincial office in a riding which was at the other end of town, the riding of Wilson Heights. I was asked then by the leader of the Liberal Party, Stuart Smith, and I told him that I was enjoying my role as alderman in the city of North York. At that time the aldermen were called aldermen; now they're called councillors. He said that the democratic process was an important one, that an election was expected shortly, and he asked if I would be the candidate in that riding.

It was during that campaign in 1981 when I realized the important issues that were on the agenda here in the Legislative Assembly at Queen's Park. I believed then, as I believe now, that every member of this Legislature, whether he or she sits on the government benches or on the opposition benches, can make an important contribution to the people of this province.

I remember at my nomination meeting in September of 1984 saying that my expectation at that time—and remember, that was the time when the Conservatives had governed this province for some 40 years; Bill Davis was still Premier—was to join the Liberals as a member of the official opposition. I realized on September 6, 1990, that it had taken me some six years to achieve the goal I had talked about that night in 1984.

I want to say tonight that I have very few regrets about the time I served on the government benches—not that I was perfect or that we were perfect as a government, but I am proud of the fact that we always put the public interest first, that we remained true to our Liberal values and our Liberal principles, that the policies and the programs we developed were the kinds of reforms we believed would lead Ontario into the future, that would create wealth and create jobs and create a climate of confidence in this province, at the same time as we were attempting to eliminate the systemic barriers to full participation in our society.

As I stand today, as a member of the official opposition I want to reiterate my commitment to serve my constituents in the riding of Oriole as their member of provincial Parliament, to criticize in an effective and responsible way the policies of the New Democratic Party government, the government of Premier Bob Rae, to critique its policies and its programs, to point out to the people of the province what I believe is in the public interest and what I believe is not in the public interest. I pledge to remain true to my values and my principles in opposition, as I did in government. I also pledge to hold the government accountable by explaining its policies to my constituents and to anyone else in the province who is interested in hearing my point of view about the policies and the programs that are developed by this new government. When I use the term "new," I realize that it has been some 18 months since they have assumed the mantle of governing, but they are still new to governing.

Not only do I pledge to be appropriately critical when that is what I should be doing, to be properly critiquing the

policies and programs of the new government, to hold the government accountable for the decisions it makes, for the programs it puts forward, for the way it approaches the complex issues of the day, but I hold it accountable and I will hold it accountable to do what it says it is going to do and to hold it accountable for what it said it was going to do when it made promises and commitments to the people of this province.

Further, I see my role as a member of the official opposition in offering suggestions, alternatives and advice to the government. I believe it is an important opportunity I have in serving my constituents to offer my help to the members of the government and give them my very best advice along with my criticism, along with holding them accountable, along with critiquing.

So as I rise to debate Bill 86, which is part of the fiscal policy of the government, part of its taxation policy, I felt I would take a few minutes at the beginning—and I appreciate your patience, Mr Speaker—because this gives me an opportunity to very clearly define what I'm about to do as the critic for Revenue as I critique, criticize, hold accountable and offer some alternatives for the government on this piece of legislation.

1720

I would like to begin by explaining to those who are interested in this debate that this piece of legislation has been around for some time. This was tabled immediately after the budget of April 29 of last year. It said that effective April 30 of 1991, the budget of 1991 and Bill 86 increased gasoline tax by 1.7 cents per litre to a total of 13 cents per litre for unleaded gasoline and 16 cents per litre for leaded gasoline. It went on further, and this legislation says further, that effective January 1, 1992—that was January past—that budget of a year ago increased the tax on gasoline by a further 1.7 cents per litre for unleaded gasoline, bringing the total tax up to 14.7 cents per litre on unleaded gasoline. It also increased leaded gasoline tax by the same amount, bringing the total tax on leaded gasoline to 17.7 cents per litre.

The question my constituents and those watching this debate might ask is, why are we still debating this today? This tax is being collected and has been collected for the past year.

The reason we are still debating this today is twofold: first, because to raise the gas tax, I believe and my caucus believes, was a misguided taxation policy of the new government. I'll go on to explain why I think it was a mistake to do that. We believe very strongly that the midst of a recession, when the government is trying to create a climate of consumer confidence and business confidence and when the economy is shrinking, is not the time to increase taxes. The time to increase taxes is not in the midst of a recession. The time to take money out of the economy is not at a time when you want consumers to spend and business to invest.

The best example of what not to do is Bill 86, because it had other implications. Not only was it the wrong fiscal policy, the wrong taxation policy at that time a year ago; it continues to be the wrong policy for today. Today, one year later, we see the effects of having taken that money

out of the economy. We have had a delay in the recovery from the recession, a delay which I believe and I know was not predicted by any of the economists or the treasury officials.

What I would like to share with the House is that in the spring of 1989 the predictions for the province said that yes, there would be a recession in Canada, but the prediction for Ontario in the spring of 1989 was that we might be fortunate enough to have what was then being called a "soft landing." By the fall of 1989, six months later—primarily, I will grant you, because of the policies of the federal government—high dollar, high interest rate—

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Are you going to take that, Margaret?

Mrs Caplan: The Minister of Labour is interjecting, but in fact that was what the officials of the treasury told us: that it was predicted in the fall of 1989 that we would not have a soft landing, that we would slip into recession, but because of the fundamental strength of Ontario, the recession would be short and shallow. The Minister of Labour interjects and suggests that I am being partisan in some way when I mention the policies of the federal government. I'm being consistent. I have said that repeatedly in this House, whether I was a member of the government or a member of this Legislature. We have acknowledged the policies of the federal government have not been helpful to Ontario. I'm not casting the finger or pointing blame to anyone here in this House; I don't think that's helpful. That's the reality. The high interest rate, high dollar policies of the federal government pushed us into what I believe was an unnecessary recession.

Having been there, I say to the Minister of Labour, sitting opposite smiling, finding ourselves in the midst of that recession with a new, inexperienced government, the policies of this NDP government, policies like Bill 86, an increase in the gas tax, kept us in this recession longer than we had to be there, stalled the recovery from the recession, and when I speak to the new budget which has been tabled this year, we see the same misguided fiscal policy.

A year ago we had a spending level that was higher than any other jurisdiction in Canada. What we heard from the Treasurer was, "We're going to spend our way out of the recession and we're going to raise taxes to do it." That's what the gasoline tax was going to do: raise the revenues so the Treasurer could support an almost 14% rate of growth of government expenditure in the midst of a recession. One year later we know that did not work.

We pointed out to the Treasurer and to the government a year ago that cross-border shopping was a major, significant problem in this province. Here I stand, one year later, saying that cross-border shopping is still a major, significant problem costing Ontarians jobs and the treasury revenue because people are crossing the border. And what is luring them across the border? Gasoline prices. People in border communities, whether it is Windsor or Niagara or Sault Ste Marie or Cornwall, are telling us, and we heard from the mayors' task force, that the single biggest lure across the border is to fill up their cars with gasoline, which is up to 30% cheaper than it is in Ontario. That

differential in gas prices between Ontario, Canada, and the United States is a major factor of why people cross the border to shop. First they fill up their tank with gas, and while they're there, they do some shopping.

The Treasurer has heard this. The Premier has heard this. The government has heard this for over a year now. There are members on the government benches who represent those border communities. They know it, they've been telling the front bench, they've been telling the cabinet, and there has been no positive response.

That was another reason why we wanted to debate Bill 86 and why we wanted to wait until we had an opportunity to show the Treasurer and the government what the implications of the passage of this bill would be, in the hopes they would correct it in the new budget that was tabled in this Legislature on April 30 of last month. But in fact the Treasurer did not reverse the misguided policy of a year ago of raising gas taxes and the bill is still before us today. Cross-border shopping continues and jobs are being created, but these jobs, which could be and should be created here in Ontario, are being created in the border communities of Detroit, New York state and Michigan.

The new gas tax that was levied in Ontario one year ago by the New Democratic Party government has cost the average Ontario driver over \$88 just in this last year. That's how much more they had to pay to fill up their tanks for a year, and that's in southern Ontario. I see the member for Sudbury is here listening to this debate. She will know that the price of gas in northern Ontario has been a major issue of concern for the New Democratic Party over the years it was in opposition. I heard them make promises and commitments that they would differentiate for the people in northern Ontario, yet Bill 86—

Mr Mahoney: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Sorry to interrupt, but I don't believe we have a quorum present.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1733

The Speaker: There being a quorum present, the member for Oriole may resume with her comments.

Mrs Caplan: As I was saying—and I appreciate the fact that there's now a quorum here from the government bench—the impact of Bill 86 has been even greater in northern Ontario as far as the cost for the people who live there is concerned. I see the member for Sault Ste Marie. He's here now for this debate. I know he has a problem, when he goes home to Sault Ste Marie, explaining to his constituents how the Treasurer could raise gas taxes on northerners when the party promised it would do exactly the opposite.

Interjection.

The Speaker: The member for Sault Ste Marie should resume his seat.

Mrs Caplan: This tax, Bill 86, is really an example of the kind of policy which has kept us in the recession longer than I believe we had to be. I mentioned to you how the predictions had changed, how we slipped into a recession because of the policies, primarily of the federal government, but what everyone has realized is that it is the

creation of uncertainty, the loss of confidence of both consumers and the business community in the fiscal and economic policies of Bob Rae's government that has stalled and slowed the recession—the recovery from the recession.

This gasoline tax increase is an example of the NDP's policy, which has hurt small business and stifled economic growth. This policy was brought in at a time when we had hoped the province was going to be recovering rapidly from the recession.

I spoke to the budget last year, and I said this province will recover. The province will come out of this recession, because fundamentally—

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like to refer to a comment that the honourable member made when she said, and it's true and she's absolutely right, that this government has slowed the recession and has moved us into a recovery much faster than would ever have happened under the Liberals. Absolutely. It's true, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: I always appreciate it when members agree with each other. It's not a point of order. The member for Oriole has the floor and she may continue.

Mrs Caplan: I've been in this House since 1985. There are very few occasions when I have had a member stand in the House not only to question the motives of a member, which is unparliamentary, but to take a statement and attempt to distort it in the way in which the member for Downsview has just done. I resent that and I'd ask you to intervene, Mr Speaker. He is a new member and he may not be too bright, but he should not try to distort in the way he has.

The Speaker: To the member for Oriole, it would be very helpful if we did not make disparaging remarks about other members. I would ask the member if she would address her remarks to the Chair and continue with her debate.

Mrs Caplan: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would at this point say to you that I am very aware that sometimes the comments from other members can irritate to the point where I will respond in a way that I'm not then as proud of as I should be, so I withdraw the remark.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I appreciate the fact that the member withdrew the remark.

Mrs Caplan: I withdraw the remark, but I would ask at the same time that you caution the member about behaving in a way that will provoke members of this House unduly.

As I continue, without the interjections from members opposite, in what I believe is an important debate on an important issue, to see it trivialized in such a way from a member of the government bench is of great concern to me, because what it suggests to me is that there is a lack of respect in this House at this time from members of the government benches. I find that this is very offensive to a member such as me who is attempting to participate in this debate in a responsible way.

As I was saying, following the budget of last year, I participated in a task force that toured this province and

listened to leaders and individuals, consumers and business people in communities across this province. Over and over again, the tax that they felt was the most difficult for communities to bear and was going to have the most severe impact in a negative way on cross-border shopping—

The Speaker: The member for Yorkview. If members would like to carry on private conversations, perhaps they would find someplace other than the chamber to do it. Allow the member for Oriole to continue with her debate.

Mrs Caplan: The tax that we heard the greatest number of complaints about, the tax that communities were most critical of, the tax that irritated the most, was Bill 86, the gasoline tax. Each community, for different reasons, whether it was the negative impact on the economy, the wrong message that was being sent out in border communities, the lack of responsiveness from the government to the petitions of the mayors who said, "Do not do this," I can't say which was the response that was the most critical, because they were all very critical and very concerned about the imposition of the gas tax at that time.

What they were also concerned about was that the Treasurer was presenting this gasoline tax in some way as an environment tax. I'd like to speak for a minute, because I think my colleague Mr Bradley from the Niagara region has been most articulate on this. The suggestion he offered was a very reasonable one. He called the tax a tax on auto workers. That was the gas guzzler tax.

1740

I think all members should pay attention for a moment because it makes a lot of sense. If your goal is a cleaner and improved environment, if your goal is greater efficiency, if your goal is cleaner emissions, then the point he makes is that you should have an incentive so that people will trade in their old clunkers, trade in the cars that are fuel-inefficient, trade in the cars that do not have clean environmental emission systems, give people an incentive to stimulate the auto industry, and do that not by raising gasoline taxes, not by adding on a gas guzzler tax, but by creating an incentive for people to trade in their cars.

The revenue you would generate from increased car sales would more than cover the revenue requirements of the treasury. Further, not only would they generate additional revenue for the treasury, they would stimulate economic activity in Ontario in the car industry, which is suffering right now. We know what is happening with General Motors. We know the jobs that are being lost.

This particular tax is one which is of concern from a number of policy directives. It is of concern because of the overall economic policy that not only says don't take more taxes and money out of the economy during a recession, but also says consider how to stimulate the economy through your tax policy by creating an environment where people will trade in their cars and stimulate the auto sector which is so important to Ontario. That good idea and good suggestion has been ignored by the Treasurer and the government.

I will be voting against this bill, although the tax has been collected for over a year. I'm hoping we will have an opportunity to vote on it in the very near future. It has been

in place for a year. In voting against it, I know that with a majority government in place, with a new budget that did not repeal this legislation, that did not lower the gas tax, we in the official opposition and myself as Revenue critic will just be sending a signal and a message to the government on behalf of our constituents. That message will be, "You made a mistake last year by levying the tax increase on gasoline."

This piece of legislation is being opposed as a symbol, but an important symbol, on behalf of my constituents, who every time they fill up their cars at the local gas station or every time they cross the border to fill up their cars in the United States realize the impact of this piece of legislation on them and their families. But our vote will be somewhat symbolic only because this tax has been collected and the government has decided not to do anything about it.

We have a new budget in place and I'm hoping to have an opportunity to participate in that debate, because I believe that with the policy of this year, which is to raise taxes in other areas even further, and the predictions in this budget of a very low and slow rate of economic recovery over this fiscal year, we know we will continue to have high unemployment. We have seen a lot of very questionable accounting in both the first budget and particularly the second budget tabled by Treasurer Laughren.

The people of this province, I believe, my constituents in the riding of Oriole, expected more from Bob Rae, expected more from a New Democratic government. They've waited 18 long months for the government to learn how to govern, and I'm sorry to say that Bill 86 of a year ago has not been replaced by an economic policy that will create the climate of confidence that will create the kind of stability and security that would give the consumers the confidence they need to go out and start spending, which would lead us out of this recession faster and better.

This piece of legislation, the increase of taxes of a year ago and the increase of taxes in this latest budget, will not create a climate of confidence for the business sector and particularly for those looking to invest in Ontario for the first time; that's not happening. I would urge the government to reconsider its fiscal and economic policy and to put economic recovery at the top of its agenda; that hasn't happened.

We know its number one priority is its labour legislation, and we can understand that from a labour-socialist government. But I would urge this government, on behalf of my constituents, to reconsider its priorities, to put the economy first and to not raise taxes. I will be voting against this bill.

Mr Mahoney: I'd like to congratulate our Revenue critic for a very well-thought-out presentation—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): New Revenue critic.

Mr Mahoney: New Revenue critic; thank you very much—because she points out the folly of this government's general philosophy to simply pass on its problems. It's not only tax increases, if you take a look at the reduced transfer payments that have gone on. This kind of tax we're dealing with here in Bill 86 affects the very

agencies that are being impacted by the reduction of the transfer payments. The government seems to want to have it all ways: It wants to reduce the transfer payments down to 1% this year and 2% next year and yet tell the municipalities, the universities—I mean, look at what it did in this recent budget in eliminating \$10 million out of OSAP. You don't think that affects people who are directly affected by this budget?

Everything you're doing here is having a negative impact, ultimately, on the person in the street. It's affecting students, it's affecting small business, it's affecting municipalities, it's affecting school boards, it's affecting anybody that has to simply go to the store, for goodness' sake, to buy milk or bread for the family. It's everything that is counter to what the NDP has always said it stands for, and that is supporting the little guy, so to speak, supporting the average person in the street. They're simply not doing that, and they're showing a very strong tendency towards what you have to consider to be anti-business sentiments and movements by simply blindly, both in the last budget—it's ironic that we're dealing with Bill 86, which refers to their first tax grab in a form of a gas tax—and then they're coming up with another \$1-billion tax grab in the latest budget that came out last Thursday, April 30. It's simply more negative news for the consumer and the business people in this province.

1750

Mr Perruzza: Just a quick response to the member for Oriole: I think when we talk about taxes there's never a pleasant way to talk about any form of taxes. As you know, Mr Speaker, today the municipalities are issuing their tax bills, and in my municipalities people have been hit with a whopping property tax increase.

To say that the NDP government is the government responsible for the way property taxes are collected in Ontario is simply ludicrous, because, as you know, the NDP formed the government September 6, 1990. The system we have in place now we've had for many years, and for the member for Oriole to just simply say it's this government which is taking money from the pockets of people across the province and across our cities is simply, to put it mildly, a yarn which is spun with all kinds of glitches in it, because it's simply not accurate to paint the kind of picture she's painting.

I think this government has taken some steps and some initiatives in offloading and in ensuring that middle-class people, that working people in Ontario, are to some degree given a break, for the first time, probably, in the history of this province and in this country where a government has taken on this kind of initiative.

Just to a point the member for Oriole made with respect to gasoline taxes, I remember the Liberal government when it introduced its concentration tax. She says, "Leave the money in the pockets of people." What their tax did was raise the price of parking spaces in the city. So what does it do? With this tax revenue here that we're talking about, gasoline tax revenues, people are forced to drive to work. They no longer TTC because it's not feasible or—

Mr Speaker, yes, the clock.

The Speaker: The member for Mississauga South.

Mrs Marland: I know that in the rules of order I'm actually to comment on the member for Oriole's comments, but it is very difficult to ignore the comments of someone who himself was a member of a municipal government. It just blows me away to sit here this afternoon and listen to the member for Downsview comment on the speech made by the member for Oriole. When this government talks about a whopping property tax as though it's concerned, I wish it would get out in the real world and find out why there are, to quote the words of this government, "whopping property taxes."

In the real world, if the government members knew what was going on, they would know the municipalities and the school boards have no choice. Where do you expect them to get the money from? They don't pull it off a tree. If they don't get the money in transfer payments from a responsible provincial government—which collects the income tax in the first place, I might say—if they don't have that source of funding, municipalities and school boards—and municipalities such as the one you served on, sir, the member for Downsview—the only thing they can do is go on to the beleaguered taxpayers through their property taxes.

That's why people in Ontario today are being taxed out of their homes, because they cannot afford the property taxes, because this Bob Rae socialist government does not fulfil its obligations in transfer payments to the local municipalities.

When you go to so much trouble to claw back any tax benefits that were given to the people of this province by the federal government, then it's a double penalty for the people in Ontario. It's time you went out on the streets, I say to every government member, and found out what the real world is about and what is going on today in Ontario.

Mr White: Entering into this debate a year after our budget was presented in 1991 seems like a touch of a time warp. We've heard the complaints about border communities, about the high price of petrol etc. I wonder a little bit if the members opposite have actually visited gas stations in their ridings, because in fact the cost of gas, the cost of petrol, hasn't actually risen in the last year. The market is actually a little bit lower than it was a year or so ago.

The members are talking about the gas guzzler tax and about the tax on petrol. There was no increase in the cost of petrol. There was no increase in the cost of the gas guzzler tax in this last budget. The workers in the community I represent who make the Buick Regal that I drive and the other fine automobiles that General Motors makes in Oshawa are, I'm sure, quite happy with this budget, but the members opposite are talking about the last one. Transportation issues are, there again, the game.

The members of the official opposition and of the Conservative Party were here, I am sure, yesterday when our Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology talked about the incredible hikes, much greater hikes that occurred under their governments. Did either of those governments ever reduce the taxes on petrol as they're asking us to do? I think not. I think it's again a touch strange. There has been

no increase in this budget. We did in the last budget, but the cost of petrol really hasn't increased.

The Speaker: The member for Oriole has two minutes to wrap up her contribution.

Mrs Caplan: I'd like to begin by thanking the Ministry of Revenue officials for their excellent briefing material. It's been a privilege for me to represent the people who live in Oriole riding over the past almost seven years now in this House.

I want to point out to members of this House that there is a time to raise taxes. It's important to have the revenues to be able to fund those things which are appropriate. The time to raise taxes is during a buoyant economy and during times of strong economic growth. Then, I believe, government has an obligation to raise taxes and provide the kinds of goods and services that are needed in the province. It is inappropriate to raise taxes during times of recession and that's the policy I have been trying to point out to this government. To compare times of buoyancy and strong growth and the policies of those times to the times of recession and economic difficulty shows how misguided members of the opposition benches are if they do not realize the difference.

I'd also like to state I have attempted in my remarks to be critical, to hold the government accountable and to offer alternatives in a positive way. I've also tried to be as helpful as I can in explaining the importance of good policies, policies which will be in the public interest, which will create a climate of confidence among both consumers and those in the business communities because my constituents in the riding of Oriole want a bright future, secure jobs, safety in their streets. They want the kind of society that will offer equal opportunity for them and for their children and they want a place in the province of Ontario where they can have confidence that the government in its taxation and fiscal policies will understand what is in the public interest. This bill is not.

The Speaker: Further debate?

Interjections.

Mr Stockwell: It's very difficult, when the opposition's hammerheads are spawning, to continue debate. We have two of the biggest hammerheads sitting there across the floor. What we must do is bring this debate in light—

The Speaker: Although the member has managed to capture everyone's attention, perhaps this would be an appropriate place for him to adjourn the debate so that we could hear the business order for next week.

On motion by Mr Stockwell, the debate was adjourned.

1800

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I would like to indicate the business for the House for next week.

On Monday we'll resume the third reading debate on Bill 86, followed by Bill 130, followed by Bill 121 and Bill 118.

On Tuesday we have an opposition day standing in the name of Ms McLeod.

On Wednesday we'll return to the unfinished business from Monday.

On Thursday afternoon we will complete the unfinished business from the day before. On Thursday morning, private members' public business: ballot item 7 standing in the name of Mr Gary Wilson, Kingston and The Islands, and ballot item 8 standing in the name of Mr Brown.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Pursuant to standing order 33, the adjournment of the House is deemed to have occurred.

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Carleton had filed dissatisfaction with the response to his question by the Minister of Education with respect to the Carleton board teachers' strike. The member for Carleton has up to five minutes to make his remarks, and the Minister of Education has up to five minutes for his response.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thought it necessary to express my dissatisfaction with the answer of the Minister of Education today.

This morning I was in St John, New Brunswick, at the constitutional conference. I got a call from my office here about the fact that not only was there a strike happening in the Carleton Board of Education and that it had gone on now 24 days, one day longer than at the Ottawa Board of Education, but that talks had broken off; neither side was talking at this time.

But I guess what was more alarming was the news that was coming from the Ottawa area that the young people in our elementary schools were staging sit-down strikes, they were boycotting classes and they were staying out of school. I can't help but think that some of those young people, in grades 6, 7 and 8, in most cases—it's not sporadic; it happened in two thirds to three quarters of these elementary schools—are taking their example from the teachers at the secondary level who are out on strike.

What a wonderful day it is for Ontario when teachers across this province, and particularly in the area I represent, have shown students how to be disobedient in terms of what is required from them in the education system. I think the steadfast refusal of this minister to take any significant action with regard to the strike lays the blame squarely at his feet and at the feet of Bob Rae and the Bob Rae government.

I want to say also that I'm very disappointed that I have been the only member of this Legislature from the Ottawa-Carleton area who has raised this issue in the Legislature. I understand it would not be correct for the member for Ottawa Centre, who is a member of the cabinet, to stand in her place, therefore I understand her reluctance to rise in a public forum and do that. But I must say that I am very upset with my Liberal colleagues, the member for Ottawa-Rideau, the member for Nepean and the member for Carleton East, who have not raised this issue in the Legislature. Granted, their Education critic has. But I think representing your constituents requires the member from

the area to raise the issue here, and I am very disappointed that they have not raised or escalated this issue.

Bill 6, which I put forward some three or four weeks ago, which would legislate the teachers back to their classrooms, calls for binding arbitration with regard to the first contract on a final selection process; that is, the school board would have one offer to make and the teaching profession would have one offer to make and the arbitrator would have to choose 1 or 2, not in between. I think that is the only way we are going to be able to deal with our public sector in terms of arbitrating settlements here.

I also want to indicate the tremendous support I've had not only from my riding but from people from the city of Nepean, represented by the member for Nepean, Mr Daigeler, from the city of Ottawa and from people in Ottawa West when the Ottawa Board of Education was out on strike. People have called me and thanked me that one member of the Legislature is standing up for their rights.

I am very, very much concerned that if a settlement is not reached this weekend, in effect some kids, those who are in their last year of high school, are going to miss an opportunity to get into courses at universities and colleges which they might have been able to get into had this strike not taken place.

I believe the minister, notwithstanding his reluctance to enter into a labour dispute because of the ideology of the New Democratic Party, has no choice now, and he should have done that this afternoon. If the kids are out on the street next year or next week, the blame will lie squarely at his feet. He should have taken action, and I condemn him for not doing that.

The Speaker: The Minister of Education has up to five minutes for a response.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): This is actually an interesting process we have in this House in situations where members are not satisfied with an answer given by a minister, because I think we need to first of all clarify. I think it would not be inappropriate for me to say—I think even the member would agree—that in fact what we are talking about here is not so much a situation where the member isn't satisfied with the answer that I've given but rather a situation where he doesn't agree with the position I've taken in terms of what we should be doing in the Carleton dispute.

I think the member would be, as an experienced member of the Legislature, one of the people who most would know the process that's followed around these issues, and therefore would understand the role the Education Relations Commission has in this issue and in monitoring the negotiations and encouraging the parties to come to a resolution through collective bargaining, which is something that I also believe is the appropriate way to go.

But I think that beyond the process, which I know the member opposite understands very well, there is an issue of substance here in terms of what a Minister of Education should be doing or not doing in situations like this, and I think the member indicates that is a refusal on my part to take any action. I think he would, if pressed, probably also agree that my not bringing in wage control legislation,

which is what I think he has been advocating and has reiterated tonight, is different from my refusal to take any action. Indeed, if I were to press him on this point, I would venture to say that he might even agree that I have actually taken a number of steps in terms of monitoring the situation very closely, looking at what in fact can be done by staying in constant contact with the Education Relations Commission, and in ensuring that in fact everything that should be done is being done to try to get the parties to resolve the issue between themselves.

Again, he would be, I would think, among the first to indicate that the best solution to any dispute, particularly one like this, is in fact one in which the parties are able to resolve their differences between themselves because they are the ones who are going to have to live together with each other and continue to work with each other for the benefit of the students beyond the immediate situation.

I think that as I monitor the situation I become aware that there is a good prospect of settlement, as was the indication I received earlier this week, and that in fact the parties made substantive progress towards a resolution. I think the last thing anyone in this House would want me to do would be to break that process in any way, as opposed to letting it continue to a successful completion.

As I indicated earlier this afternoon in answer to the member's question, while negotiations have broken off, negotiations are resuming this Saturday morning, and the Education Relations Commission has indicated very clearly that it is meeting on Monday morning to assess the situation. I think I've indicated in this House and outside this House that I continue to monitor the situation very

carefully. I don't mind saying here, as I have said on more than one occasion, that the situation is serious, that I believe the parties are in fact able to come to a conclusion and should be able to come to a conclusion, and that obviously if the situation is not resolved this weekend, then we are all going to be asking ourselves some very different questions into next week.

I want to conclude by reiterating comments I have been making with respect to the school year and the impact this strike is having on the students. Again I would say that while, yes, I definitely support and continue to take the position that teachers in fact have the right to strike, I also take the position that they and the boards have a responsibility to deal with the issue of the impact of a strike on students; and that upon the completion of the dispute I will be looking very critically, as I am doing now with respect to the Ottawa situation, at the kind of proposal that comes to me for approval around making up the time that's been lost in the Ottawa situation, indeed in this case around making up the time that will obviously have been lost as a result of the strike. In that, I will not hesitate to take whatever actions need to be taken by me as Minister of Education to ensure that the school year is protected for the students, for all students and particularly for those students going on to post-secondary education.

The Speaker: There being no further matter to be debated, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock Monday next.

The House adjourned at 1811.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
17	531	1	26	ENVIRO FUELS
17	531	1	33	Fuels. Konrad Sigurdsson and Perake Persson came to my
17	531	1	37	finally given the go-ahead to open up their Enviro Fuels.
17	531	1	38	Enviro Fuels is the official name of their company, and
17	531	1	46	wish Enviro Fuels every success in the future, and I expect

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Willson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LEGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffier: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony
Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson,
Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling,
Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Deborah Deller

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel
Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,
Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffier: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget,
W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock,
Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Lynn Mellor

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini,
Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

CONTENTS

Thursday 7 May 1992

Private members' public business		
School Boards and Teachers		
Collective Negotiations		
Amendment Act, 1992, Bill 14 . . .	597	
Mr McGuinty	597	
Mrs Cunningham	598	
Mr Wiseman	600	
Mr Sola	601	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	601	
Mr White	602	
Ms Poole	603	
Mr Phillips	604	
Negatived	612	
Acid gas emission control,		
resolution 4	604	
Mr Cousens	604	
Mrs Mathysen	606	
Ms Poole	607	
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	607	
Ms Carter	608	
Mr McClelland	609	
Mr Drainville	611	
Mr Cousens	611	
Agreed to	612	
Members' statements		
Budget	613	
Mrs Caplan		
Orangeville farmers market	613	
Mr Tilson		
Recycling	613	
Mr Morrow		
TVOntario	613	
Ms Poole		
Violence in publications	613	
Mr Jackson		
TVOntario	614	
Mr Wiseman		
Teachers' dispute	614	
Mr Morin		
Canadian Cancer Society	614	
Mr McLean		
Elizabeth Fry Society	615	
Mr Wilson (Kingston and The Islands)		
Visitor	615	
The Speaker		
Statements by the ministry		
Jobs Ontario training fund	615	
Mr Allen		
Justice system	616	
Mr Hampton		
Police use of force	617	
Mr Pilkey		
Race relations	617	
Mr Rae		
Responses		
Jobs Ontario training fund		
Mr Ramsay	618	
Mrs Cunningham	619	
Race relations		
Mr Curling	618	
Mr Cousens	620	
Mr Eves	621	
Justice system		
Mr Harnick	620	
Police use of force		
Mr Harnick	620	
Member's privilege	621	
Mr Sorbara		
Ms Gigantes		
Mr Scott		
Oral questions		
Retail store hours	622	
Mr Sorbara		
Mr Rae		
Job creation	623	
Mr Phillips		
Mr Rae		
Stabilization payments	624	
Mr Stockwell		
Mr Rae		
Labour legislation	625	
Mr Carr		
Mr Rae		
Youth unemployment	626	
Mr Curling		
Mr Allen		
Agriculture programs	627	
Mr Villeneuve		
Mr Buchanan		
Northern health services	627	
Ms Murdock		
Ms Lankin		
Member's privilege	628	
Mr Elston		
Mr Rae		
Teachers' dispute	629	
Mr Sterling		
Mr Silipo		
Affordable housing	629	
Mr Hayes		
Ms Gigantes		
Northern health services	630	
Mr Miclash		
Ms Lankin		
Revenue from gaming	630	
Mr Tilson		
Mr North		
Business practices	630	
Mr Ferguson		
Ms Churley		
Speaker's rulings	631	
Mr Mahoney		
The Speaker		
Mrs Caplan		
Notice of dissatisfaction	632	
Mr Sterling		
Speaker's rulings	632	
Mr Mahoney		
The Speaker		
Petitions		
Junior kindergarten		
Mrs Marland	633	
Municipal boundaries		
Mr Ramsay	633	
Mrs Mathysen	633	
Mr Miclash	633	
Mr Eddy	633	
Taxation		
Mr O'Connor	633	
French-language services		
Mr Mammoliti	633	
Reports by committees		
Standing committee on estimates	633	
Mrs Marland		
Deemed received	633	
Third readings		
Gasoline Tax Amendment Act,		
1992, Bill 86	634	
Mr Sorbara	634	
Mrs Caplan	636	
Mr Mahoney	636	
Mr Carr	637	
Mr Ruprecht	637	
Mrs Marland	643	
Mr O'Connor	643	
Mr Henderson	644	
Mr White	649	
Adjourned	649	
Business of the House	649	
Mr Cooke		
Teachers' dispute	650	
Mr Sterling		
Mr Silipo		
Errata	651	

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

Le jeudi 7 mai 1992

Déclarations des députés

Conflit des enseignants	614
M. Morin	

No. 20



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 11 May 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 11 mai 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



Table of Contents

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears on the outside back cover.

Index inquiries

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Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 11 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BILL McNEIL

Mr Gilles E. Morin (Carleton East): I wish to pay tribute today to a man who has made quite an impact on thousands of lives. I am referring to Bill McNeil, host of the popular CBC radio program *Fresh Air*. I know Mr McNeil personally and I have had the pleasure of listening to his excellent program since 1970.

Bill McNeil was a friend to many who tuned in on Saturday and Sunday mornings. His program was much more than just a breath of fresh air. It was a familiar presence, reassuring, and it always accentuated the positive. It presented the good side of life. I don't think we can ever hear too much good news.

Mr McNeil believed that the listeners' interests mattered. He asked his audience what it wanted to hear and complied with its wishes. He talked about the way things were, about the good old days. He also profiled great Canadians. He drew attention to people who, in his view, built this country.

I count Bill McNeil among the great Canadians. His wit, his commentary and his generosity of spirit have left an unforgettable mark upon those who shared the Saturday and Sunday mornings with him.

There are so many ways a person can contribute to his or her society. In his own special manner, Bill McNeil made his corner of the world just a little bit brighter. It saddens me that in these times of frequent turbulent change, another familiar voice is fading away.

I really enjoyed listening to his show. Bill, I wish you a happy retirement.

ORANGEVILLE FOOD BANK

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I would like to make members of this Legislature aware of the opening and incorporation of the non-profit charitable organization, the Orangeville Food Bank: Caring for the Community.

This group of 15 on the hard-working board of directors has banded together to form a non-profit organization to help the people of Halton, Caledon and Orangeville. The sad statement is that we need food banks to help make ends meet in these tough economic times. The committed and combined individuals of the Orangeville Food Bank are here to help out families in need.

This non-profit organization also needs our help. They have put together a depot for dropping off groceries and moneys to get the food bank started. If you'd like to help out with either a donation of non-perishable foodstuffs or money to help get them started, please drop by 78 Centennial Road in Orangeville.

The food bank will officially open on May 23 to serve the people of Caledon, Alton and Orangeville. They would

appreciate your support. In these tough economic times, we need to work together to see the Orangeville Food Bank serve 100 families within Caledon, Alton and Orangeville.

I commend the board of directors and wish them well in their commitment to make Orangeville, Caledon and Alton a better place to live for everyone.

FOOD DRIVE

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): In the last war everyone was encouraged to dig for victory and plant vegetables to share with others. Today we are in another war, the war against the recession, and once again we can turn to the garden for help.

In my constituency of Durham East we are launching a community garden food-share program. This program, put into place by my constituency assistants, is to ask all gardeners to plant a little extra this year and to share that extra produce with others in the community. The produce produced by local gardeners will be going to area hostels, emergency shelters, emergency residences and food banks.

Another option I'm asking people to think about is, if they have a spare piece of ground in their backyard, to offer that to someone to grow vegetables and maintain it.

This innovative food-share program allows for many ways in which we can pull together to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Today, through the debate on television here, I'm encouraging all residents across Ontario to dig, to plant and to help others who are less fortunate in this severe recession.

PORT WELLER DRY DOCKS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): It was with justifiable pride and satisfaction that the employees of Port Weller Dry Docks witnessed the christening of the *Jiimaan*, the ferry built at the St Catharines facility to serve Pelee Island. As usual, the vessel was produced within budget, on time and with the outstanding quality for which Canadian shipbuilding and engineering has become so well known.

It was more than parochial pride that caused me to support the designation of Port Weller Dry Docks as the builder of this vessel when I was a member of the previous Liberal government, and it was more than working to ensure that residents of my community would gain employment that prompted me to urge the new government to proceed with this project. I knew what every objective observer of the shipbuilding industry in Canada knows, that Port Weller Dry Docks can be counted upon to produce a quality product, within schedule, within budget and within the specifications of the customer, in this case the taxpayers of Ontario.

While federal government contracts are awarded to facilities elsewhere that are often over the tendered price, late in production and of questionable quality, Port Weller is passed over for apparent political reasons. We would welcome

more provincial government business and at least our fair share of federal government business at a shipbuilding operation where we have the expertise, the experience and the commitment to produce the very best for the customer—Port Weller Dry Docks.

DEVELOPMENT IN RENFREW AND PERTH

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I rise today to recognize the government for having met with Mayor Howard Haramis of Renfrew to work out an acceptable substitute for the provincial transfer of the Ontario Heritage Foundation along with 60 jobs to that community.

As reported, the government will provide up to \$3 million over a four-year period to assist the mayor, council and the industrial commission to promote Renfrew as a manufacturing and tourist centre.

More important, the government has recognized the mayor for putting together a marketing team made up of council and industrial commissioners that is second to none in the valley. They have worked together with the Capital Hill Group to establish an industrial strategy that will lead Renfrew and area into a well-based, modern and prosperous community. They deserve the financial assistance, and I compliment the members involved for their part in negotiating a final solution in replacement for the provincial heritage foundation.

I am also pleased to announce that the Perth Great War Memorial Hospital emergency inpatients unit project has received Ministry of Health funding for the \$17-million project. This is great news for the community and the hospital's board of directors who started this project in 1981.

I congratulate the people in Renfrew and Perth for providing the leadership that received recognition at the provincial level for the benefit of all concerned.

1340

CHARLES ALFRED STRANGE

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I rise today to recognize former Brantford MPP Charles Alfred Strange. Charles Strange died Monday May 4, 1992. He was a resident of Simcoe, Ontario, and aged 82.

Mr Strange represented Brantford for the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, known as the CCF, from 1943 to 1945. In fact, he was the first CCF member elected in the city of Brantford. Mr Strange moved with his family to Simcoe in 1947 and was employed at the American Can company. American Can was later sold and was known as Ball Packaging before it closed last year. He worked in personnel at American Can and helped out with the bowling team. He also organized the children's Christmas party. Charles Strange was very active in the community.

Mr Strange was a long-time member of the St John Ambulance and also helped revitalize the Simcoe and District Humane Society. Charles was a person who shared of himself. His way of dealing with problems was to sit in on a discussion, listen, then help out and put everything into focus. He was a good man and an excellent representative for the working people in Brantford at Queen's Park.

Mr Strange is survived by his wife Olive, his daughter Joan and her husband John of Waterford. He is also survived by grandchildren David, Lynn and Michael Walker. He will be missed.

TOW-TRUCK INDUSTRY

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): I want to draw the House's attention to a tragedy which took place in my community, in the hope that the lessons it offers will not be lost on us.

A short while ago, Kevin Keefe, a 36-year-old father of infant twins, was driving to work where he was to work the night shift. Unbeknownst to Mr Keefe, a heavy steel cable was stretched taut across the road in front of him. Attached to one end of the cable in a ditch was a truck. The other end of the cable was attached to the towing rig on a tow truck which was in the process of towing the truck out of the ditch. No flares were on the road to warn of the cable's presence. No flagpersons wearing reflective clothing or waving lights were present. The cable tore the roof off Mr Keefe's truck and he died instantly.

The jury which heard the evidence relating to that fateful night learned that the tow-truck industry is the only emergency response industry in Ontario that is not regulated. The jury made the following recommendations to us: that mandatory training and certification programs be developed for tow-truck operators, that safety and traffic control procedures be established for tow-truck operators, and that the laws governing minimum lighting requirements for tow trucks be reviewed.

My constituent, Mr Keefe's father, has contacted me to express his earnest desire that we, the members of this House, ensure that his son's death not be in vain.

I ask the members of government, particularly the Minister of Transportation and the Attorney General, to carefully examine the jury's recommendations and take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of any further accidents of this nature.

I also take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathies to Mr Keefe's family.

POLICE WEEK

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): Today marks the beginning of Police Week. On behalf of the Conservative Party, it's a pleasure to salute the accomplishments and dedication of the police officers of Ontario. They stand second to no one in the world in efficiency, professionalism and fairness. Without them our civilized, tolerant and progressive way of life would not be possible. They and the people of Ontario must, however, view Police Week 1992 with very mixed feelings.

Our police have to do their jobs while dealing with a government that second-guesses their actions on a regular basis; a government whose Premier chose to talk extensively about racism in relation to the shooting of a suspected drug dealer, putting forward sly innuendoes that the Metropolitan Toronto Police were racist despite the total lack of evidence of racial motive; a government whose Attorney General bemoans the fact that he and his staff were unable to find any justification for re-laying charges

against two Peel region officers found not guilty in the shooting death of a man driving a stolen car.

It's nothing short of disgusting that at the very time police are being faced with increased levels of crime such as assaults, drug use, drug-related crimes and street gangs, the government of Ontario is turning its back on the police.

Ordinary citizens, in marking Police Week, can continue to speak up on behalf of the police, or the NDP and various self-styled organizations claiming to speak for large segments of society will irresponsibly damage police morale, severely handicap their ability to fight crime and ultimately damage public safety.

VISITORS

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Honourable members, I would like to welcome a very special group of people visiting our Legislature today. Joining us today in the east gallery are individuals from my riding of Yorkview. They soon hope to become Canadian citizens.

As you know, one must learn a great deal about Canada's culture and its institutions in order to be successful at the citizenship hearings. I am very happy to offer classes in my constituency office to help prepare candidates for this important moment. These students have worked very hard towards achieving their goal. They have taken the time to attend classes weekly to learn about our great country.

Fellow members, please join me in commending their efforts and wishing them the very best of luck at their hearings. I would also like to thank the instructor, Ms Terry Fernandes Castro, for her hard work and dedication in preparing her students.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To all members in the House, I invite you to welcome to our assembly this afternoon a very special group of visiting parliamentarians. We have with us today parliamentarians who are here to study the parliamentary process from the parliaments of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. Please welcome them very warmly to our chamber.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I'd like to seek unanimous consent to pay tribute to a former member of this House, Jimmie Allan.

The Speaker: Do we have unanimous agreement? Agreed.

JAMES NOBLE ALLAN

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): It's with great honour that I stand today and pay the final respects of our party to James Noble Allan, or Jimmie Allan as he was known to his friends and colleagues in this Legislature and his friends in his riding. He died Saturday at the age of 97.

He was first elected as a Progressive Conservative member for the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk in 1951 and sat in this House till 1975. He had the honour of serving under three distinguished premiers: Leslie Frost, John Robarts and Bill Davis.

During his career as a provincial legislator, James held many posts. In 1955 he became the Minister of Highways at a time when highways were politics and "highways"

was the word of the future for Ontario. He oversaw a budget of \$200 million and 8,000 employees, and in doing so created more than 10,000 miles of Ontario highways. This was the largest single department in the Ontario government during that period of time.

From 1958 until 1966, James was the Treasurer of Ontario. Although he introduced the first sales tax in Ontario, at 3%, he was also the last Treasurer to report a surplus budget, Mr Laughren, of more than \$28 million. It would amount to much more than that in today's terms.

Jim was an active member in his community. He served on church and hospital boards, on the municipal councils of the townships of Canborough and Dunnville, as mayor of Dunnville and as a past warden of Haldimand county.

In 1967, Jim was appointed chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission, which he held until 1988 when he was well into the 90th year of his life. During his years as the "czar of the parks," he guided it through a period of expansion by applying common sense and tight-purse policies.

I can remember hearing and talking to some members of the commission, and he refused to give them a pay increase over any period of years, and I think they were being paid a mileage allowance of something like eight or nine cents in 1988 or 1989 when most people were being paid much more. He had only one answer: "If you want to sit on the Niagara Parks Commission, you either do it as an honour or you don't sit on the board." He was awarded yet again by being appointed the honorary chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission, a position he held until his death on Saturday.

1350

James Allan had a colourful political career. He was highly respected and liked by members of all parties. He was honoured for his outstanding service several times. He was named an honorary Mohawk chief by the Six Nations Indians, a 113-acre park near Dunnville has been named after him, and on the occasion of his 90th birthday the Burlington Bay Skyway bridge was renamed the Burlington Bay James N. Allan Skyway.

For the past 17 years, members of my party and friends have held a birthday party for Jim Allan each year in November. The large number of members and former members and former political allies says a lot about the respect that Jim Allan had during his political life.

I can only remember that a year and a half ago at his birthday party he was as up-to-date with the political issues as anyone in this Legislature, at least on that side of the House. I think his death is the loss of a great politician and, most of all, a loss of a great friend to our party and to members of this Legislature.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I would like to rise and say a few words on behalf of the government concerning the passing of James Allan. It's hard for me to believe that I'm the only one in the assembly who actually sat with him here, but that is indeed the case.

My first encounter with Mr Allan was not in this assembly. I was working my way through college, as they

say, at a wallboard plant when suddenly the line came to a halt—and that line never came to a halt—and there appeared shaking hands with people on the line none other than James Allan, as it was an election time. I asked the foreman a little later, “Well, we saw Mr Allan; when are we going to see the candidates from the other parties?” and the foreman said, “If you have to ask that question, you’re probably too stupid to be working here.” I hope you won’t comment on that.

My next real encounter with him was indeed in the assembly when I served on a committee, and I remember it was a committee with a lot of emotional involvement in it. It had to do with health and safety and workers’ compensation, and I believe the Elliot Lake mine workers was an issue on the committee.

It got fairly heated and I took what can only be described as a cheap shot at Jimmie Allan. That was not the right thing to do, of course, and he reprimanded me and said, “Young man”—I repeat, he said—“Young man, you will get a lot further around this place and you will accomplish a lot more if you will for ever avoid personal shots.” I don’t think I’ve lived up to the letter of his advice totally in the last 20 years, but I certainly have remembered it and if I haven’t lived up to it, it wasn’t because of the good advice he gave me.

There’s no question that he played an enormous role in the political life of this province and made an enormous contribution. I indeed do remember, when I first came here, the respect in which he was held, not by just his own colleagues but by all members of the assembly.

I realize he lived a full and rich life, to the age of 97, I believe, but even so, that’s a life that should be celebrated, and on behalf of the government I would like to express my condolences to the family.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I would like, on behalf of my colleagues in the Liberal Party, to join with the member for Carleton and the member for Nickel Belt in expressing to the Allan family our condolences on the passing of James N. Allan.

As has been mentioned, few people served in this assembly over the years with such distinction as Jimmie Allan. He will, I suppose, be remembered always for that first sales tax—it was affectionately known as the “Frost-bite” at 3%, he of course being finance minister to Leslie M. Frost—but he served in a number of capacities, as has been mentioned by previous speakers.

I remember Bob Nixon saying to me that in his, that is, Bob Nixon’s rather long public life, he, Bob Nixon, never met anyone he felt epitomized the highest qualities of public service as did Jimmie Allan. Bob and Jim were neighbours down in that part of southwestern Ontario for many years. In talking to people like Gord Miller, who succeeded Jim Allan as the member there in 1975, and Vince Kerrio, the member for Niagara Falls, with whom I know Jimmie had some dealings at the Niagara Parks Commission, all of my former colleagues who had involvement with Jim Allan certainly had the same summary of characteristics: He was courtly, genial, very much a good listener, a man of the people, someone who had served in very high

office, but never one to forget who he was and where he’d come from.

He, I think, in one way that has not been commented upon, is a really excellent model in this respect. Jim Allan, as the member for Carleton observed, went to cabinet in 1955 and served in very senior portfolios, certainly six or seven years as minister of finance. One of Jim Allan’s great habits was to name his budgets, I say to my friend the member for Nickel Belt. He had a “sunshine” budget and he had a “get well” budget. I don’t remember all the various titles, but every year he was the finance minister he would name his budget with a certain phrase that identified it.

He left the finance portfolio in 1966 and served nine years afterwards, most of those years as a private member. Too often we think in this place that if one is not in cabinet, if one is not thirsting to be in cabinet, then there’s nothing to live for, there’s nothing to do. I think the member for Nickel Belt is very helpful in remembering that when he was first elected in 1971, Jim Allan served in that Parliament for four years as a very active and constructive member of the Legislature as a private member. He served on three extremely difficult and contentious committees, from the government’s point of view, not just the workers’ compensation reference, but the famous reference to the new Hydro building, and one other that escapes me at the moment. But they were two or three very important references he was involved in, making the point very powerfully that just because one has served in senior cabinet government is no reason to believe one cannot continue as a member of the Legislature. Jim Allan did that with great effect and great distinction.

James N. Allan: The “N” is for Noble, and he certainly speaks to the nobility of our sometimes soiled profession.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To all members, the kind and thoughtful remarks made this afternoon will be forwarded to the members of the James Allan family.

1400

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

HEALTH BUDGET

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker, I am pleased to inform you that my ministry’s supplement to the provincial budget was tabled with the Clerk of the House today.

I have said many times that our most fundamental goal is to preserve medicare. We have one of the finest systems in the world, but we must admit that it isn’t perfect. There hasn’t always been a close check on how money has been spent. We haven’t had the management systems in place to assure the money being spent was actually resulting in better health for our citizens. And in a massive system that serves 10 million people, with a budget of more than \$17 billion a year, wastefulness can add up to important amounts fairly quickly. Management mechanisms must be put in place to help us keep health care affordable and working for the people of Ontario.

But good, quality health care is about more than cost-effectiveness. It’s about people, about keeping them well, and it’s about returning them to health when they do fall

ill. In short, it's about responding appropriately to people's needs.

Our challenge is great. We must ensure a high-quality health care system. We must cut waste and improve efficiency, and we must do all this within the recessionary pressures we all face.

That means the system must change. As a friend of our Canadian health care system says, and I've been quoting him a lot recently, "If we don't change it, we'll lose it." My pledge is that we will not lose it.

As a government, our plans were laid out before the House by the Treasurer on April 30: Create jobs, preserve services, keep the deficit under control. Our pre-budget consultations with the public told us that these were the priorities of Ontarians. My ministry takes these priorities very seriously.

This paper we are tabling today is a review of the key areas we have worked on in the past year. It is a look at some of our intentions for the coming 12 months. It deals with the methods of providing accessible, affordable, appropriate health services for all. Let me assure all the members of this House that this paper is not, as some have predicted, a list of harsh cuts to the services available through OHIP or the Ontario drug benefit plan. No one will wake up tomorrow morning to find that a medically necessary service is gone.

In the paper I am releasing today, members of the House and all Ontarians will see that we have major reviews under way in a number of areas where we think we can save, where we think we can reform and restructure the health care system and maintain service, if not improve it.

For example, our restructuring of hospital funding continues. A very good example is that just last week our government announced a grant of \$500,000 to the Essex County District Health Council to help local officials plan the rationalization of acute hospital services in the Windsor area.

We will carry on our search for the best and most cost-efficient ways to serve the public through the Ontario drug benefit plan. We have established a guideline of 2% for drug price increases this year. Products with a proposed increase over 2% will be subject to review and possible removal from the Drug Benefit Formulary.

Prescriptions and dispensing in larger quantities will be encouraged for well-established ODB recipients on long-term therapy. This is a follow-through of a commitment we made last year. This will result in greater patient and prescriber convenience and will reduce the number of dispensing fees paid by this government.

Changes in the coverage and price of over-the-counter drugs under the ODB plan will be implemented.

These measures are expected to save \$112 million in 1992-93. As well, a major review of the ODB formulary will begin. It is expected to find an additional \$28 million in savings.

We are implementing a major reform of all public drug programs through the drug programs reform secretariat.

We are also launching a major review of the use of commercial laboratories, to assure top value for our money. As well, the existing discount factors for large vol-

umes of tests will be increased and expanded to include tests ordered by specialists.

The ministry will implement a new utilization sharing formula effective April 1, 1993. It will reduce payments to commercial laboratories by 50% when the number of tests grows more than 2% per year. We expect to save \$11 million through these measures.

With respect to OHIP, together with the Ontario Medical Association we are reviewing the OHIP schedule of benefits to promote more appropriate care and ensure that medically necessary services are available to all.

Together with physicians and other health ministries across the country we will seek ways to address issues surrounding physician human resource planning. Some parts of Ontario are underserved whereas other parts are overserved. This simply isn't fair.

To address these concerns, the government will work toward better aligning the educational supply of physicians to health care needs of the province; modifying the medical education experience to better prepare physicians for the settings in which they will eventually practise; exploring ways to better distribute physician human resources geographically and by health care setting, and creating a system of linked, regional, multidisciplinary referral networks to effect a mix and distribution of physicians that provides a more rational means of accessing health care providers.

We expect that we can save \$80 million this year through improved planning of this sort.

We will begin a review of payments to practitioners other than physicians. In order to better manage the growth in these payments, the existing payment policy for chiropractic, podiatry and osteopathic services will be frozen until the review is complete.

A new utilization formula for optometrists will share on a 50-50 basis any growth over a set percentage above a demographic allowance.

A new per capita allocation system for physiotherapy services will be developed to promote equitable availability.

Together these measures, taken in consultation with stakeholders, are expected to save \$5 million this year.

The list of reforms we have already begun is long. I speak of reforms to long-term care and mental health; new strategies on cancer, tobacco, community health and diabetes; improvements to redress inequities in aboriginal health, women's issues and children's health, and we've begun new work on AIDS and in rehabilitation services.

Our better management initiatives have saved \$176 million in 1991-92. These included individual thresholds under our agreement with the Ontario Medical Association, changes to our payments policy on out-of-country claims, a review of OHIP benefits and changes to the ODB. This year we expect to save \$246 million.

As the Treasurer said in his budget address, "Maintaining the quality of Ontario's health care system while reducing rapid expenditure growth is essential to preserving medicare." Saving medicare means managing it well. That is what we are doing. We aim to prove that our excellent system can be managed well, so that it runs efficiently and effectively.

RESPONSES

HEALTH BUDGET

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): In responding to the statement of the Minister of Health, I want first to acknowledge her courtesy in providing her statement to me a few minutes before the House came into session. We appreciated that because we believe this is an important paper and one eagerly awaited by everybody in Ontario.

As the minister has indicated, medicare is a part of all our lives and the way we define ourselves. Since the introduction of medicare, in my view, there's never been such a deep unease and concern about the approach and direction of a government with respect to health care delivery. This paper brings with it an \$832-million chop in health care services. The implications of those cuts are indeed profound.

Health care practitioners, consumers, institutions and families are all disturbed about the signals they're receiving from the government about changes which will be thrust upon them. There's little communication about the rationale for many of the changes which have been signalled and there's definitely no sense that the stakeholders themselves have been involved in designing the changes that will answer the real and perceived needs and problems that face us. As well, there's frequently little confidence that the government has any real understanding of the impacts and implications of the cuts it's made to date or will make in the future.

It appears to us that the current government has approached these issues by looking at cost containment rather than cost-effectiveness and health quality. This is a matter of serious concern. It's rarely seen to accept advice that could assist it in understanding the issues. As a consequence, it has made unilateral decisions that have sometimes had an adverse effect on patient care and at other times have not made the cost savings the government hoped to achieve.

We've seen unilateral decisions in the past to change access to certain ODB drugs with a clear indication that neither the Ministry of Health nor the Treasurer had full information on the use of those drugs. In one case which came before the House elderly patients with shingles, a painful and debilitating illness, would have had to wait several weeks for access to the drug that would have assisted them.

Now we have, in the absence of any further apparent action on Dr Lowy's report, a new directive that prescriptions must be issued in larger quantities, supposedly to save costs on pharmacists' dispensing fees. We know, however, that one of the serious problems in dealing with the elderly patient is the overprescription of drugs. When drugs are prescribed in larger quantities, the problem could well be exacerbated. Patient monitoring will be less frequent and the threat of increased damage to the patient is extremely high. As well, the issue of appropriate and safe disposal of unused medication becomes a problem of increasing importance. The impacts have clearly not been fully examined in this area.

We've also seen blanket statements that no new drugs, no matter how advantageous for patient care, can be added

to the Drug Benefit Formulary, whether or not those chemical therapies may have enabled the patient to stay out of a more costly setting, such as a hospital or other institution. As well, with the prospect of removal over-the-counter medications from the formulary, we may well see more expensive prescription medications used as their replacement.

What's singular and significant about these changes is that there has been no serious attempt to bring together the pharmacists, the pharmaceutical manufacturers, the physicians who prescribe drugs and others to look at the full range of issues associated with therapeutic drug treatment.

1410

The cost of the drug benefit plan, the efficacy and effectiveness of specific drug therapies and the life-cycle cost to the health care system need thorough analysis with all the players at the table. What do we get instead? A unilateral decision to cut \$59 million from the Ontario drug benefit plan. But that approach isn't unique to the drug section. The same could be said for laboratory medicine, where laboratory fees are the lowest in Ontario and yet a unilateral cut has placed them out of the ballpark and probably out of business.

The specialists who are now being added to the cap really ought to be enabled to continue their play, and I'm thinking of the situation particularly with the AIDS patients, sexually transmitted diseases, where in fact the cap will intervene and interfere with adequate patient care.

There are some positive thrusts in this paper in concept and in practice. To the people of Ontario, however, I want to underline, medicare is sacrosanct, the changes and issues that should be discussed have not been adequately discussed with all of the players, the choices have not been made with the expertise available, and medicare, in the end, will suffer.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to respond to the announcement today by the Minister of Health. I can only conclude, after many meetings with groups, thousands of job losses and bed closures and huge waiting lists for treatment, that this NDP government has no comprehensive health care management plan. This is the case despite an abundance of rhetoric to the contrary. Minister, I say cut the rhetoric, not the services.

For the past 18 months you've run around the province, along with your Treasurer and Premier, talking about the very serious problems with costs in Ontario's health care system, but after 18 months your government still can't give us some answers on how these problems are being addressed.

I call today's paper "A Beginner's Guide to Health Care." We'd expect more from a government that's been around as long as your government has. You should be much further down the road in the reform of our health care system than is evident today by this very vague document.

There continue to be uncertainties out there concerning which OHIP services are to be cut and what drugs will be delisted. I see no plan in this document to counteract the 4,000 jobs that will be lost and the 2,300 beds that are to be closed this year in our hospital system. The lack of government policy and direction is causing serious planning

and budgetary difficulties for Ontario's hospitals, and I've repeatedly asked the minister for a prescription that would enable hospitals to plan properly for the future.

While we've known for some time that the reform of the Ontario drug benefit plan is in the works, you've not bothered to consult with pharmacists or drug manufacturers, and I've heard that from them very directly. Surely you must realize that front-line workers and those who provide pharmaceuticals should be consulted in the reform process. It's illogical that those who provide these services are not involved.

It's time you consulted with the public on issues currently being dealt with behind closed doors. We know you're considering user fees in the ODB program and we know you are talking behind closed doors with the Ontario Medical Association about what health services residents in this province may have to pay for in the very near future. We do not dispute the fact that medical practitioners should be consulted with respect to services that should be covered under the Ontario health insurance plan, but we believe that the public should also have a voice.

I sincerely hope you open up a dialogue with commercial laboratories. They would very much like to work with you, and I see no reason why you should feel obligated to bureaucratize yet another private industry.

I'm pleased to hear you're working with the Ontario Medical Association on the supply of physicians. I hope something binding will be worked out in the very near future. We have to ensure that citizens in all areas of the province have access to specialized medical care.

You mentioned that you've already begun the process of improving children's mental health treatment. How can this be the case when more than 12,000 children continue to wait on waiting lists for mental health services across the province?

The bottom line is that there's been no public consultation. The subtext of today's announcement is that you're going to ration health care, you have no plans for extensive public input, you're taking a scalpel to the health care system behind closed doors and you'll be introducing, we know, more user fees in the future.

Cuts are occurring in a clandestine way. You're taking a stealth bomber approach to health care. People go to the hospital only to find out that you've cut services without prior warning, and after today's announcement there's no indication where you'll strike next.

Again, we plead with you that, before you make any more cuts to our health care system, you consult widely with the public. Today's announcement is simply a softening up of the public for the major cuts you're indicating are coming in both the extent of services and the delivery of services in Ontario. You must consult widely. You've only spent time with the Ontario Medical Association, the executives of the physicians' association. You've not consulted with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association or individual pharmacists.

I was in Thunder Bay this weekend, as you were, and hospital boards are very uncertain of what the future is in health care. You have to bring forward a comprehensive management plan. You can't just tell us you have one

without actually telling us what it is. We call that rhetoric. This document is not rhetoric; it's simply a beginner's guide to health care. We'd expect more from a minister of your competence.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Further responses?

ATTENDANCE OF CABINET MINISTERS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, I have a point of privilege I'd like to raise for your consideration. It says on page 14 of our rules: "Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the House collectively and by the members of the House individually conferred by the Legislative Assembly Act and other statutes, or by practice, precedent, usage and custom." I refer you back, if you don't feel that my point follows under the "by practice" category, to section 1(b), which says: "In all contingencies not provided for in the standing orders the question shall be decided by the Speaker or Chair, and in making the ruling the Speaker or Chair shall base the decision on the usages and precedents of the Legislature and parliamentary tradition."

One of the privileges we enjoy collectively on this side of the House is to hold the government accountable. I would point out to you, sir, that absent from this Legislature today in addition to the Premier—and particularly in light of our guests from eastern Europe—are the Attorney General, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Colleges and Universities, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Northern Development, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Natural Resources. That means 10 ministers, fully 40% of the cabinet, are absent from question period. I don't know how we can be expected to perform our duty of holding these people accountable to the public when they won't attend question period.

I would ask that you, sir, perhaps consider talking to the government House leader. Maybe we should reschedule question period to some other time that's more convenient to the members of the government so that they don't need to fill in their empty benches with backbenchers from the rest of their party. How can we perform our duties when they simply won't come to work?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Mississauga West, first of all, I appreciate the point of order he has raised, and indeed he has cited some appropriate references with respect to what happens within the chamber. I must, however, draw the member's attention to the fact that question period allows members of the opposition an opportunity to ask questions, and cabinet ministers who are present the opportunity to respond. There is not, however, as regrettable as the member may view it, anything in the standing orders which would allow the Speaker to compel the attendance of any member of the House.

I will close by saying that I am of course most sensitive to the point which he raises, because indeed question period is the focus point for the opposition, the one period of time set aside where members have the opportunity to question

the government policy of the day very directly. For that purpose it is of great assistance to the members of the House when the cabinet ministers are in full attendance, but you are asking the Speaker to do something which is not within the Speaker's power: to compel the attendance of cabinet ministers.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, could I just refer to something for your consideration? The last two words in section 1(b) under "Conduct of Business" are "parliamentary tradition." Would you not agree, sir, that it is parliamentary tradition in this place to have a one-hour session of question period where opposition members have the privilege and the right of questioning members of the government? Clearly members of the government are only those members who occupy a cabinet seat. The backbenchers are simply members of this Legislature who traditionally are in support of the government, but they indeed are not part of the government. The government is the cabinet. Some 40% of the government refuses to come to question period. How can we do our job effectively on behalf of all our constituents?

1420

The Speaker: The member for Mississauga West raises a very interesting and intriguing point, and indeed I'll be most pleased to take a look at this and to report back. The member knows that questions can be directed only to cabinet ministers, that they cannot be directed to any other member of the government, and hence it would be helpful if cabinet ministers were present.

I will be pleased to take a look at this and I will report back to you later. At this moment it is—a point of order, the member for St Catharines.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): A very brief point of order, Mr Speaker: When you're taking this into consideration, would you take into consideration the fact that the government refused to come back into session until April 6 of this year, when the parliamentary calendar would normally call for it to be back March 9, and when those of us in opposition would have liked to see it back in January of this year? The Premier and his ministers can hide somewhere else, but surely their prime responsibility is to be here in the House to be questioned.

The Speaker: I will be pleased to provide something for the member: The member, being an experienced member, I am sure is aware that once the House is prorogued, the recall of the House is at the pleasure of the government.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): I'll direct my first question to the Solicitor General, who is here today. Last week, members of the opposition asked the government ministers a number of questions about what we thought were widespread rumours that the government might be planning changes to its Sunday shopping legislation. We were of course assured categorically that there were no changes planned.

Then on Friday, it suddenly became very apparent that the government is indeed planning changes to its Sunday

shopping legislation. We're pleased that those reassurances have been provided. I would just ask the minister if he will now tell us what changes his government is planning to introduce to its legislation.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): In response to the leader of the official opposition, I'm here every day at question period except if I'm on government business. I am pleased to report that I did return from Sudbury this morning just so I could be here. I want to convey to the member that I assume other ministers are not here because, perhaps, their flights and connections did not allow.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): And your response to the question?

Hon Mr Pilkey: More directly to the response, there is no alteration to the government position with respect to the common pause day legislation and the legislation that provides for worker protection.

Mrs McLeod: I suppose that raises the question of on what basis retailers of this province believed they had received some commitment from members of this government and, on that basis, changed proposed action that they were planning to take. I think the retailers were under the impression that some commitments had been made. We would like to know on what basis they had that kind of reassurance and what changes they might have been anticipating.

Hon Mr Pilkey: The House is well aware of the amendments that were brought forward with respect to the Retail Business Holidays Act, I believe just prior to Christmas, and the clarity the government brought to that particular issue. It is fair to say that I and other members of the government have indicated in recent weeks that we were quite aware of the increase in the polls, the shift in public position, and of course we have met with the retailers at their request to understand their ongoing concern with respect to their bottom line, which is not improving in this recessionary period. But beyond that, no assurances have been given. The government will continue to monitor the situation, and if and when there is any alteration in the position, it will so advise this House.

Mrs McLeod: It seems that once again people are just being lost in a wealth of words, with absolutely no action to follow any of the words that are used. I would gather from what the Solicitor General has told us that he is essentially saying to the people of this province that there are no changes proposed to the Sunday shopping legislation; that communities will not be given the option of deciding to open their stores on Sunday; that there is no possibility that municipalities will be able to make that choice and that retailers will be able to open their stores in time for summer hours. Will the minister assure us, then, that this is the government's final statement, so that we all clearly understand what his government is saying and can act accordingly?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I can indicate to the House again the amendments that were made. I'm very pleased that retailers who had previously announced that they had intended to break the law this Sunday reconsidered their position and decided not to and to support, as good corporate citizens,

the laws of this land. Beyond that I can only repeat, as I indicated to the leader of the third party, that if and when there is any additional news or change or disposition that is different from the existing, we will so advise the House. Beyond that, the law is the law. We expect corporate citizens and citizenry alike to follow it. At this particular time there's nothing else to add.

TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Let me turn to another set of words in the endless attempt to find out this government's intentions. I'll direct my second question to the Minister of Education. According to the Minister of Education, and I believe I'm quoting accurately, "The best solution to any dispute, particularly one like this"—referring to the Carleton school board strike—"is in fact one in which the parties are able to resolve their differences between themselves."

Although the minister made that statement, it is our belief that he has at least indirectly intervened in the bargaining process with his earlier statements on transitional funding. It is possible that this kind of intervention, without any clarity as to what's intended, has made local resolution of this particular strike, or perhaps any other strike, virtually impossible.

I ask the minister whether he has defined for the Carleton Board of Education what a balanced collective agreement would be in this situation, what kind of tradeoff the board would be expected to make for this balanced agreement and what kind of transitional funding the Carleton board might receive if it were to reach a settlement under the minister's guidelines.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): No, I have not done that in terms of any specific discussions I've had with anyone at the Carleton Board of Education. I don't think it is appropriate for me to do that. I have given indications to the education community at large in terms of the kinds of things I believe both teachers' federations and school boards should be doing in the collective bargaining process—and outside of the collective bargaining process, for that matter—but to answer specifically the member's question, the answer would be no.

Mrs McLeod: Surely the minister is aware that any kinds of directives or guidelines given to the school system at large also apply to specific local situations and that it is absolutely essential that there be clarity as to what the minister's intentions are if he does not wish to at least indirectly intervene in the ability of local parties to work out a local solution to a dispute.

In the meantime we have a situation in which students in Carleton have lost 26 school days as a result of this strike. The end of the term is approaching. Students are worried that they're going to lose their school year. This concern becomes particularly significant for students who are waiting for information as to whether they will be accepted to a post-secondary educational institution next year. I ask the minister, while he waits for a report from the Education Relations Commission and as the anxiety and the frustration of the students and the parents gets greater

and greater, what is he doing to respond to that sense of urgency that everyone else is feeling in this situation?

Hon Mr Silipo: Let me assure the member that I've been following the proceedings very closely in the Carleton negotiations. It was my hope, as I believe it was everyone's hope, that in fact a settlement would have been possible over the weekend, which has not happened.

As the Leader of the Opposition alluded to, the Education Relations Commission is meeting later this afternoon to deal with the issue of jeopardy. I'm expecting to hear from them later in the day. We have been talking, obviously, about the options available to us as a government and will continue those discussions later in the day. Obviously we'll be in a position to make some further clarifications on that as the day unfolds and into tomorrow.

The other point I wanted to address was with respect to the school year. I've had discussions with my officials around what things we should be doing and could be doing with respect to that and with respect to indicating very clearly to the school board in the Carleton situation, but also in the Ottawa situation, that we expect to have the issue of the school year addressed in a way that will not jeopardize the school year for students who are either continuing secondary school education next year or going on to post-secondary education.

1430

Mrs McLeod: The minister clearly understands the process. We talk about the process, but the reality is that the students and parents in the Carleton district do not understand the process; they only understand that the students are not in school. The other reality is that even elementary school students are now joining in the protest and they're concerned about the importance of education and how that's being jeopardized.

May I understand from the minister's response to the last supplementary that he is assuring the students and the parents of the Carleton system that he will take action to protect their interests, that at the very least he is giving them an assurance they will not lose their school year and their entry to post-secondary education institutions will not be jeopardized? If he is giving that assurance, I would ask him to give us some explanation of how he can follow through on that.

Hon Mr Silipo: I have been giving that assurance in the House for the last few weeks, as I have been asked these questions. I have no trouble in reiterating that today and in saying we will do, and I will do, whatever is necessary to make that happen up to and including having the school day extended, if that's what's necessary, to complete the time that's necessary and having whatever discussions are necessary with post-secondary education institutions to ensure, in terms of students being accepted, that isn't affected by the strike situation.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question, the third party.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): To the same minister, on the same subject. I'm glad to see the Liberal Party take an interest in the strike at this time.

The Minister of Education will know I have had on the order paper for over three weeks now the only solution he has left at his disposal, that is, ordering the teachers back to work by legislation and settling the dispute later. I'm getting calls from both sides, the teacher side and the board side, saying they have failed to come to a conclusion in the negotiations they have undertaken. Why do you not take that step this afternoon?

Hon Mr Silipo: As I indicated earlier in answer to the question from the leader of the official opposition, the Education Relations Commission is meeting later this afternoon. I'm expecting to hear from them later in the day. We're continuing to look, obviously, at the various options we have before us, which I think clearly include the question of legislation as a possibility.

I had a chance earlier this afternoon to speak with the chair of the Carleton board. I have not yet had a chance to speak with the head of the teachers' federation, which I also want to do, in terms of getting a sense directly from the federation around where things are and what might still be possible. I want to be able to have the rest of the day to pull all that information together, obviously, for the discussions to continue within the government in terms of how we are going to respond and react to the situation.

Mr Sterling: What have you been doing for the last five weeks if you haven't been considering the options? Do you have to have the rest of today to figure out what the options are? What options do you have other than legislating the teachers back to work?

Hon Mr Silipo: As the member would know, in these situations there are always other options in terms of looking at the issues that caused the breakdown in negotiations to occur over the weekend and whether there is any way to reconcile those differences. Clearly, we aren't talking about a process that is going to drag on from this point. I have been monitoring the situation and looking at all the options, as things have been unfolding, but I think, given the point at which we are now, it's incumbent upon me to take a look at all of the options and put those options before the cabinet in terms of decisions that can be made. That's what we're in the process of doing.

Mr Sterling: The minister is dithering. The Liberals have dithered on this thing. They haven't said what they would do if they were sitting over there. We have clearly said what we would do through my private member's bill.

Mr Minister, we are tired of hearing you say, "I'm monitoring the situation, I'm considering the options." There are no other options. Legislate them back this afternoon so the kids can be in school tomorrow. Why don't you do the right thing and show a little bit of leadership, even at this late date?

Hon Mr Silipo: It's clear that the member and I have different definitions of what leadership entails, and that's fine. I'm quite happy to leave it at that. He clearly has stated his position with respect to how he would have dealt with this issue probably a month ago in terms of instituting wage controls. I've never believed that's the way to resolve these kinds of situations.

We believe the collective bargaining process needs to be respected, sustained and encouraged to work. Obviously we come up against situations like this, where it's put to the test in a very real way and it may or may not work. But I think we need to look at all the options as we make the kinds of decisions we need to make as a government in terms of what next steps we might want to take.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): My question is to the Solicitor General. Last week both you and the Treasurer gave assurances to this House that you were not changing your regressive Sunday shopping legislation. There were reports in there, and I'm quoting from one of the executives from Woolco who said, "There are some indications that I can't go into detail on that the government is reviewing their position." Have you had a chance to chit-chat with the Premier's office and find out what deal was struck and what your position on Sunday shopping is today?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): There's been no deal struck as the member opposite alleges. The response I gave to the Leader of the opposition is the government response with respect to the matter.

Mr Carr: I think what is driving it is a quote from the Treasurer, who said, "I suspect there will be some increased revenues to governments because of Sunday shopping, because people do spend more." That quote was attributed to your Treasurer.

Something made them change their minds. All the reports are that they were going to open, and apparently what happened—I'll refer to one of the other articles that says: "And sources say MPPs have been told that the issue of Sunday shopping will be on the caucus agenda tomorrow," so you'd better prepare for your answers tomorrow, members of the NDP.

My question is this: Will you quit playing political peekaboo, come clean with retailers and tell them when we are going to be open seven days a week in Ontario?

Hon Mr Pilkey: If and when that eventuality comes to pass, I certainly will advise them and all members of the House. Beyond that, I've indicated we are monitoring the situation in terms of public opinion and the concerns of retailers of this province during this very difficult recessionary period. If there is to be any alteration at any given time in the future, we obviously will advise the House.

Mr Carr: I wish we could have the Premier's office come in here; we might get some answers. In fact, deals were being cut across the province. They decided not to open and we can't get any answers in this Legislature from the Solicitor General. You flip-flop on all the other issues: auto insurance, the casinos and the entire Agenda for People. When will you say to the retailers in this province that you have changed your mind and that you're going to open? Will you tell us when you're going to make that announcement, Mr Solicitor General?

Hon Mr Pilkey: The government will make all announcements after cabinet and this government decide on any changes on any issues in the normal consequence of

this House and will so advise it at that time on this and any other issue when any changes may become appropriate.

JOB CREATION

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Treasurer. It has to do with an important matter, that is, jobs. The Treasurer is probably aware that we discussed jobs in the Legislature last week and that the Premier said, "Everyone's credibility is on the line." The Premier said he was quite proud of the record of creating jobs. He said, "Those are real jobs, and that's the truth and those are the facts." That was on Thursday.

On Friday we saw the highest level of unemployment in Ontario in nine years. We saw 75,000 more people out of work in April than in April a year ago. I think those are the facts and that's the truth. My question to the Treasurer is this: Will he now acknowledge that last year's budget was a failure and that new approaches are required to lower the unacceptable level of unemployment that we have in Ontario?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I must confess I didn't hear the last part of the member's question and I would seek your indulgence, Mr Speaker, if he could repeat it.

1440

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member kindly repeat the last portion.

Mr Phillips: I'm not sure how far back to go. The Premier last week was quite proud of the job creation record of the government. He said that you have created jobs; that's the truth and those are the facts. On Friday, Treasurer, as you know, we saw the unemployment level for Ontario, the highest level we've seen in nine years. We see 75,000 more people out of work this April than in April of a year ago, when you brought in your first budget.

My question to you is this: Was that budget, which the Premier was talking about as having been successful in creating jobs for the province of Ontario, the budget you're using as your foundation for this year's budget? I think it would be helpful if you would now acknowledge that that budget was a mistake, it was a failure, it didn't work, and that we need some new approaches to lower the level of unemployment in this province.

Hon Mr Laughren: The member for Scarborough-Agincourt is surely stretching the cloth a bit to imply that because we're in a recession, the heaviest and deepest recession this province has had since the big Depression, and because unemployment is high, it's the fault of the provincial budget. I think that really is stretching the point a lot.

What we did last year was incur a deficit of over \$10 billion, which at least supported and created jobs in the province. If we had listened to some of the advice from some of your colleagues and all of the advice from the third party we would have slashed jobs even more, because that's the message you've been giving us.

Mr Phillips: Again I go back to credibility and the credibility of the budget. I will just say to the Treasurer this: Last year you said you would spend \$700 million on an anti-recession program. In your budget you have cut

\$400 million out of the capital budget, out of the anti-recession program. So that's credibility.

Ontario had the lowest rate of unemployment in the country a mere 18 months ago. We now see Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia all with substantially better levels of unemployment than we have. On page 51 in your budget, Treasurer, you say, "Job Gains Expected to Resume in Spring"—right now. I go back to credibility of your planning and your budget work. "Job gains are expected to resume in the spring of 1992 as economic growth takes place," yet we see a third of the spring's over. We've now seen one month of spring. We've actually lost 17,000 jobs.

My question to you is this, Treasurer: Are you sticking with this budget? Will we see real job growth beginning in the next month in this province, or do you agree with us that we are going to need more activity, we're going to need better plans to get the economy going, than we see in your budget here?

Hon Mr Laughren: When we were drawing up the budget and putting in the forecasts of jobs and economic growth we didn't pull those numbers out of the air. Those numbers came from not just treasury board staff but other independent and objective forecasters out there in the province. I think if you will cast your mind back for a couple of months, virtually everybody who's an objective observer, a knowledgeable observer, was predicting and is still predicting that there's going to be an economic recovery this spring. That doesn't mean that, a week after the budget is brought down and there isn't the increase in jobs that everyone's predicting, the budget document is a failure. I think that really is stretching credulity to the point of no return.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a question for the Treasurer and Deputy Premier. With the appointment of Stephen Lewis to look into the circumstances of last Monday evening's demonstrations, we will begin to see some results from his studies in the next four to five weeks. Certainly if the government thinks that what happened then is totally racially based, it will have missed a major point.

What happened a week ago today were the acts of disenfranchised youths angered and frustrated with a system that has chosen to ignore them. Even last Thursday, out on the lawn here at Queen's Park the crowd called for jobs. Jobs today are needed for our youth in order for them to feel part of our society, so they can be responsible and productive. We don't have six weeks to wait for a report that is going to start indicating the need for jobs for these youths.

The government does not have six weeks to review job opportunities for youth. In fact, by then summer will be well under way and there still won't be more jobs for them. There must be a commitment today to solve youth unemployment. I ask the Treasurer, how many jobs for young people will your government create this year?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The member asks an important question. There is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that high unemployment is a contributing factor to the

kinds of problems we've seen in this province and this city. I would simply say to the member opposite—and this ties in to a question from the member for Scarborough-Agincourt as well—I don't want to be defensive about it, but in this budget just brought down we've been either creating through new programs or continuing to fund through existing programs about 90,000 jobs this year. Everyone would like to be able to do more, we all understand that, but I think the member opposite would be one of the first on his feet if we were to think there were any quick fixes to the problems to which he refers.

Mr Cousens: Looking at the youth situation here in the province right now, 18% of young people between 16 and 25 are unemployed. It's one of the largest groups of unemployed. There is nothing specific in your budget, which highlights all the good news possible, for youth unemployment. Your own youth budget has been straightlined the same as last year: \$8.3 million to \$8.5 million for youth employment again this year. The number of weeks they'll work this summer, Mr Treasurer, is going to be on average about nine weeks rather than 16 to 18 weeks, which would allow them to earn some money either to go back to school or do something else or get their feet on the ground.

We need specifics for young people. If we get jobs for them, then they'll have a chance to begin to get on their feet. There's got to be a commitment from your government. I ask you specifically, can you now, today, begin to take concrete steps to help them get going and find a job for this summer rather than just putting it aside for another four or five weeks? It's a time for action. These young people are looking for help from somewhere. Will it be from you?

Hon Mr Laughren: The member will recall that just last week the Premier announced that the member for St Andrew-St Patrick was being appointed as his parliamentary assistant with a very specific mandate to look at this very problem. At the same time, there is a government committee that consists of the federal government, the provincial government and the two levels of the municipal government.

Interjection: Floyd, you can't wait.

Hon Mr Laughren: The member opposite says, "You can't wait." Well, you can't snap your fingers and solve these problems either. I think the member would appreciate that.

I did want to outline some of the initiatives we've undertaken. We announced a \$6-million increase to expand apprenticeship training, including improvements to the student work apprenticeship program for this year. The environmental youth program will employ about 3,000 young people in 1992-93. The student venture will provide approximately 1,000 students with an interest-free loan of up to \$3,000 to start a business this summer. The Futures program will employ and train about 24,500 young people in 1992-93 and approximately \$95 million will be provided for that program by the province. So there are a number of initiatives.

I'm not suggesting for a minute that we can rest on what we've done. That's precisely why the Premier has appointed the very capable member for St Andrew-St Patrick to aid in seeking a solution to this very thorny problem.

1450

INTERNATIONAL SPACE UNIVERSITY

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. For the past few weeks there have been a number of newspaper articles regarding the International Space University. These articles link the ISU to the United States government's Star Wars military research. Is there any truth to the charge that the government is using taxpayers' money to support the US defence industry?

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I bet the answer is no.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): As the member for St Catharines has said, the answer is no. The bid supported by this government does not contain a defence or military research component, either classified or unclassified. As a matter of fact, we consider this to be fundamental to the bid and a fundamental strength of Ontario's bid. The decision to support the bid was made after an in-depth cost-benefit study.

With regard to the Ontario taxpayers question, this government is not supporting the initiative on its own but rather with financial participation from International Space University. On an annual basis, ISU will contribute \$4 million, rising to \$8.5 million a year by the fifth year in full operation, and the benefits such as research grants and contracts awarded to Ontario companies, and such as those arising from the ISU initiatives and royalties from ISU patents. The bid is still at the proposal stage. If it's accepted, many months of negotiation will go on before the contracts are signed.

Mr Mammoliti: The other charge that has been and is of great concern is that in supporting a bid for the ISU, this government is supporting the establishment of a private university. Minister, who will be able to attend this university, and will it be a private institution?

Hon Mr Philip: I believe the Minister of Colleges and Universities has already made it clear that the ISU facility in Ontario will be a public institution. As an educational facility, it will be an affiliate college of York University with the same authority, role and responsibilities of other affiliated colleges. The ISU will be unique. Its international students will be on scholarships from their own countries. Canada has pledged some \$500,000 toward scholarships.

The bottom line is support for and development of Ontario's technological infrastructure. We believe this will be a valuable contribution to that, even though members of the Conservative Party don't want to hear that.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the Minister of Education. Minister, you'll recall coming out to visit the folks in Peel dealing with

their crisis in budgeting. You made a number of statements at the time about people working together to resolve the problem and suggestions that the union should work with the board etc. You also said you were going to announce some funding from the transition funding allotment of \$160 million, and I have a news release communiqué wherein you announce \$50.2 million for education.

You refer in there to a number of criteria for eligibility. The first one refers to labour adjustment initiatives to make the collective bargaining process more flexible. The second one refers to employer-employee plans to restructure school board operations. You also say in there that to receive funding—and this is key—proposals “must be developed through employer-employee cooperation.” My question is, can you tell us exactly what “must be developed through employer-employee cooperation” means? What do you mean by that, Minister?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): What that means is what I think it says, that what we would expect to see are proposals that come forward either from school boards along with their employee federations or that indicate very clearly that there's been discussion and that there's some general sense of agreement in terms of the proposals that are coming forward. That's one of the issues we will be looking for in making those determinations.

I also tell the member that we are working through the details of the criteria. We're having a meeting tomorrow in fact, which involves representatives from school boards, teachers' federations and other employee groups to flesh out the details of this as well as to set up a process for approving the proposals that will come to us from school boards. I anticipate having some more information from the school boards later this week on the basis of the discussions we're holding tomorrow.

Mr Mahoney: The minister might be surprised to know that I'm aware of that even though I got it through a confidential document from the ministry which outlined the proposed time line in the process. One of the pages of this document marked “confidential” deals with the application for transition assistance fund. Mr Speaker, to the minister, item 5 says, “School boards are asked to provide detailed statements of intent in addressing each of the criteria preconditions for funding, using separate pages if space on the application is insufficient.”

Under the second criterion, dealing with employer-employee cooperation in the development of the proposed project, it says, “Attach a statement describing the employer-employee cooperation, signed by both groups.” I interpret that to say the union must sign the application along with the school board to receive any transition funds. Of course the other side of that argument is—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): And the supplementary?

Mr Mahoney: —that if the union refuses to sign the document, the application will not be considered. Minister, you're giving the union a veto over the elected trustees on the school board and their right and responsibility to represent the parents—

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Mahoney: —and the taxpayers in their constituency. How can you do this, Minister? You're turning over the authority of the school boards to the teachers' union—

The Speaker: Would the member complete his supplementary.

Mr Mahoney: —and putting the school boards at a complete disadvantage. Minister, how can you do that?

Hon Mr Silipo: Let me assure the member that he hasn't revealed any great secrets. The document he's referring to, I believe, is a working document, if I can surmise from the parts he has quoted from it, a working document that is being used in the ministry as we are looking at the various options and will probably be part of what goes to the group tomorrow in terms of the discussions I indicated in answer earlier.

There is an interest, very clearly, on our part in wanting to be sure that as the proposals come forward we know whether these are coming forward by agreement between the board and the teachers' federations and the support staff unions, because it applies to them as well. If that isn't the case, we believe it's important for us to know the degree of agreement that is or isn't between the parties, because so much of the funds we have available we are pegging in the area of labour relations and improved labour relations—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Would the member for Etobicoke West come to order.

Hon Mr Silipo: —and cooperation. So I think it's not a question of giving anyone a veto; it's a question of us wanting to be clear about the degree of—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the minister take his seat. Had the minister concluded his response?

Hon Mr Silipo: Yes, Mr Speaker.

ONTARIO ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): A question for the Minister of Citizenship: On April 20 this year, you appointed to your Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group a Mr Lennox Farrell as cochair. In his role, he will work to combat racism, demonstrate joint leadership and share in the responsibility of all sectors of society to develop anti-racist policies.

On Monday night last week, Mr Farrell was charged with breaching the peace, a charge not synonymous with demonstrating responsible leadership. Has Mr Farrell been asked to step aside from his role as cochair of the anti-racism advisory group pending the outcome of the charges against him?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister Responsible for Race Relations): First of all, I would like to give you a brief background of what the advisory committee has been appointed to do. The advisory committee has been set up with 18 people who have been asked to sit on the committee to look into and to make sure that the policies being devised by the government and the funding that is going to

be given to committees are looked at in a way that the community has good input.

I think the advisory committee has had a good process of looking at all the people we have had the opportunity to interview. I personally interviewed 38 people before we chose the 18 people to sit on the advisory committee. I think we have made a very good selection in making sure we have had good representation: gender balance, region balance, labour has been represented and employers have been represented as well.

The answer to the question is that we have had to take a very good close look to make sure that the people representing the various communities have good input into the committee.

1500

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Ziemba: With respect to whether we should look at who we've appointed to co-chair, even the Toronto Sun said that until somebody's day in court is held, we should certainly give people the opportunity. We still have in this country, I think, the ability to believe that people have the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. I think we would want to make sure that those rights of all individuals—

The Speaker: Could the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Yes, certainly, Mr Speaker, but I do think it's a very important question, and if there is a supplementary I would certainly entertain to answer that supplementary.

The Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr Cousens: Very simply, the question was, has Mr Lennox Farrell been asked to step aside from his role as co-chair of the anti-racism advisory group pending the outcome of charges against him? I wasn't passing judgement. There are charges against him. If a policeman has charges pending against him, he steps aside while allegations are being considered. If cabinet ministers—before your government took over—had charges against them, they would step aside during an investigation. Will you not ask Mr Farrell to step aside while these charges are pending?

Hon Ms Ziemba: First of all, we have to—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for St George-St David.

Hon Ms Ziemba: It's very difficult on a sensitive—

The Speaker: Would the minister take her seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate your trying to get the House in order.

I have to say that this is a very sensitive issue, and I would like to have the opportunity to answer this question. At this point in time, we are not looking at asking this gentleman to step aside, because we have to first of all

ascertain if charges have been laid. I have not been given information that charges actually have been laid, and until I have actually been given that information, I think we would like to make sure that somebody's freedom of speech and the freedom to be able to be proven guilty first before having those charges looked into—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Have you phoned the police? I'm sure if you called, they'd tell you right away.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I have to say to somebody who's yelling from across the floor that it's not a matter of phoning the police. We don't have to do that. We have been told that there might not be charges laid, and I don't think we should preclude any of that information. I don't think you would want a cabinet minister to phone the police. I think that's totally out of order. I certainly remember Joan Smith.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Mr David Winninger (London South): My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, for quite some time now your ministry has been working on changes to the Ontario Heritage Act in an attempt to create new legislation that is more representative of the heritage of many of the peoples of Ontario.

Last session you spoke to me in the House in addressing one of my concerns, which is the preservation of historic buildings. As you know, in my riding of London South a precious strip of historically significant buildings was demolished to make room for new development. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you expedite new heritage legislation so that incidents like this can never happen again.

Minister, time is crucial. I would like to know if your advisory committee on new legislation has completed its consultations and, if so, what stage the legislation is at now.

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): Yes, we did have an advisory group. As a matter of fact, the parliamentary assistant in my ministry is chairing that group. It has been looking at proposals that we had put forward, which did take into consideration those that were published by the previous government in 1990.

Feedback on the proposals has been very useful as they are looking over some of those things and working them out. They would like to go back to the constituents they represent to review what they've been working on. I'm expecting them to give a final report to me at the end of the summer.

Mr Winninger: Minister, when can the people of Ontario expect a new bill to be introduced in the Legislature?

Hon Mrs Haslam: It is a major concern for many people out there—I'm well aware of that—but I am looking forward to this report coming in at the end of summer. We will have a chance to review it and draw up legislation

at that time. I am hoping to introduce a new bill for legislation in the winter of 1992-93.

HEALTH BUDGET

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): My question is to the Minister of Health. She has presented to the House today a budget document that refers, among other things, to the Ontario Medical Association joint management agreement. That agreement has been in effect for an adequate period of time for the results of the first year to be publicly available. It's important, I believe, to all Ontarians that, as the agreement defines the relationship between the government and our doctors, the results of that first year be known and the issues be very clear. Indeed, the chart on page 23 of the document, it seems to me, further confuses the issue.

Would the minister therefore advise the House of the results of the components of the first year of the agreement and the specific cost to the province of the sharing of utilization controls, which we've heard outside this document are substantially above the minister's predictions when the agreement was first signed? Would the minister further advise the House if as a result of the first year of operations she has put forward to the OMA a new proposal to revise the utilization for handling in its current negotiations? If yes, what is that new formula proposal?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I can give a partial answer to the member's question and try and forward the rest of the information to her as soon as possible. I can tell her that with respect to last year there are still a number of billing accounts outstanding. She will understand that our relationship with doctors in the processing of bills does happen on a lag basis, some time following the fiscal year, so in order to give her full figures, I will have to take that part of the question under advisement.

I can tell her the parts of the agreement we found successful. With respect to the threshold, about \$33 million was saved last year and we expect about the same this year. We've projected that; you can see that in the budget. With respect to the utilization formula, our experience is that for last year the sharing of the utilization produced a \$50-million repayment to the government. Because we had to wait until we had seen most of the figures for last year to be able to assess and apply the formula, those dollars are actually going to be retrieved in this year. You can see that we have both this year's projected amount of \$50 million plus the amount from last year.

The other thing that's backed out of the OHIP vote for this year is the one-time retroactive payment that was paid out in a lump sum last year, of \$138 million. With respect to the numbers that have been bandied around, the member may be referring to the projections in the press of an increase around 11% to 14%. If she looks earlier on in the document she will see a table which shows the increased costs year over year—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Lankin: I will attempt to, Mr Speaker, but I was asked a very specific question about numbers and I'm attempting to respond. I'll conclude by saying that with

regard to the year over year, you will see that as we have tried to back out the one-time payment to give you a more accurate reflection, the increase of the total OHIP vote was about some 7%. I will have to get back to you with a breakdown of what portion of that was attributable to other payments, like out-of-country and other practitioners, which are not part of the OMA agreement.

Mrs Sullivan: My second question relates to another agreement which was made by the Minister of Health in October of last year when she announced that \$1.31 per resident per day would be paid to nursing homes to begin a formula of equivalency of care with homes for the aged. A second payment was due on April 1, 1992. That payment has not been made. I'm asking the minister if she will advise the House why the payment has not been made and when it will be made.

Hon Ms Lankin: I assume that this is supplementary in the vein of being related to the overall budget document and expenditures for the year, and with a little bit of latitude, we'll get into the second question the member has. It's a very good question—

1510

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the minister take her seat.

Two points here: First of all, I'm allowing the supplementary. It is vaguely related to the first question in that it has to do with expenditures. Second, ministers should be aware that if a lot of details can be supplied in addition to a normal response; items can be tabled as well.

Hon Ms Lankin: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is not the first time I have been chastised by the Speaker for my lengthy answers. I do, however, try to provide real information when questions are asked. You can't win: If you don't give the information you get accused by the opposition of ducking the question.

However, to try to be brief with respect to the question asked, the member is quite correct that the implementation date announced was April 1. In the ministry's normal course of events, that would have been paid out May 1. There is always a one-month process. Apparently—and I didn't find this out until we got the calls from the association directly—the ministry changed accounting procedures. I was unaware of this and the payment will be paid out on June 1.

I apologize about the delay and confusion. As I said, I wasn't aware of it myself, but that is the reason and we expect the payments will be made June 1.

VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Since early this year, media reports have been circulating that the government is considering introducing video lottery terminals, or VLTs, as they are known. When asked about this issue, many cabinet ministers have continued to assert that the VLT idea was being discussed in cabinet but that no decision had been reached.

Mr Speaker, I have a letter from the minister dated February 6. The letter states that the minister was awaiting

a VLT report from the Ontario Lottery Corp and that he expected to receive the report in two months' time, which was about a month ago. Will the minister indicate the status of the Ontario Lottery Corp report and indicate what plans he has for the introduction of video lotteries in Ontario?

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): I would like to indicate to the members of the House and to the member across the floor that the government has no intention of going ahead with the VLTs at this time.

Mr Arnott: In the response, if I heard it correctly, the minister has indicated that the government does not intend to go ahead at this time, but I'm not sure if he's talking about tomorrow or next week, so I will continue with my supplementary.

The recent budget states that the government is committed to consulting with affected parties on the introduction of casinos. However, recent experiences with groups associated with video lotteries demonstrate the opposite. The Coin Operators Lottery Association has requested meetings with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, the Treasurer, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet to discuss the impact video lotteries may have on their operations. This organization represents over 70 operators of video amusements who may be adversely affected if the government proceeds without thorough consultation.

Minister, the Coin Operators Lottery Association has been writing to you for six months requesting a meeting. Will you follow up with your commitment to public consultation and meet with them before the week is out?

Hon Mr North: Over the course of the last few months we have attempted to have an opportunity to talk to as many different people as we can about anything the government was contemplating as far as gaming in this province is concerned. We have had an opportunity to talk to various groups about ideas concerning gaming.

The government is not prepared at this time to go ahead with the video lottery terminals and I think the member across the floor would well know that. Thank you, sir.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Mr Speaker, you are aware that within the city of North York today, residents are receiving their property tax bills and in the city of North York the mayor has circulated a—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Can you pose your question?

Mr Perruzza: My question, Mr Speaker, in the absence of the minister for the greater Toronto area, is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The mayor for the city of North York, as I was drawing to your attention, is circulating a flyer which quite frankly is misleading and blames every other level of government for property tax increases other than his own. Given that in Metropolitan Toronto there are six local municipalities—

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): You are the one who voted for property taxes.

The Speaker: Order. The member for York Mills, come to order.

Mr Perruzza: —and one regional government, it should come as no surprise that this often contributes to much of the confusion—

Mr Turnbull: It is your side that is doing it, your government which is downloading.

The Speaker: Will the member take his seat. Would the member for York Mills come to order. Member.

Mr Perruzza: Thank you. I believe the Reichmanns live in the riding of the member for York Mills, so that's why he's not concerned about property taxes. But in my riding, they're very concerned and I wish he would listen.

Given that in Metropolitan Toronto—I'll try it again—there are six local municipalities and one regional government, it should come as no surprise that this often contributes to much of the confusion experienced by taxpayers about who is responsible for what service. Will the minister give some indication that he is looking at Metropolitan Toronto government with particular attention to the cost-saving aspects that could be achieved by consolidating the services under one level of government for the entire Metropolitan Toronto area?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): The member indicated when he was asking the question that he asking me in the absence of the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. I would like to indicate to the member that I will certainly relay the question to the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area, and I'm sure she would want to respond at the appropriate time.

Mr Perruzza: I'd like to thank the minister for fielding the question, and I will probably be asking the minister responsible at another date.

HOUSING POLICY

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): My question is to the Minister of Housing. Over six weeks ago the Ontario March of Dimes, which provides attendant care services to support service live-in units in at least 10 centres across Ontario, began to ask questions about this government's commitment to supportive housing for the disabled.

I quote from the press release issued by the Ontario March of Dimes on March 25, 1992:

"Central Place in Hamilton developed by the Pilgrim United Church and Kin Village in Markham developed by the Kinsmen are ready for occupancy immediately. When the provincial Ministry of Housing committed funding for the construction of these projects, they did so with the expectation that the Ministry of Community and Social Services would make funding available to provide attendant services to the projects' disabled tenants."

It also states: "Without attendant care funds from the provincial government, the units must now be rented to tenants who may not need the special features."

Are you willing, Madam Minister, to permit these specially designed units to be rented to tenants who do not

need the many special features built in rather than fulfil your government's commitment to supportive housing for disabled individuals who want to live independently in this province?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): There have been, as the member points out, a number of projects in which concerns have arisen about arrangements for support services, when the sponsorship by the March of Dimes seemed to indicate to them that they were in a position to be able to say this was going to be supportive housing in which people could, for example, expect attendant services.

It has long been the practice of the ministry, which the member will be aware of, that there is an obligation on the part of the applicant, the sponsor of the housing, to provide information about any special supportive services which are supposed to be incorporated into such a development and to be able to assure the Ministry of Housing when such a project is moving ahead, with the understanding of the Ministry of Housing that those supportive services are indeed going to be funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. That was not the case in these projects.

Mrs O'Neill: I am having a lot of difficulty understanding that answer. I really am. Central Place in Hamilton and Kin Village in Markham were built on a promise that support service live-in units would be provided with attendant care services—that was part of the approval process and I have checked that as late as noon today—to meet the basic needs of the active disabled people who can live independently in their own communities. For over two months Central Place and Kin Village have waited for an answer from this NDP government.

The hopes of 34 disabled individuals are in jeopardy. Perhaps they have even been dashed, or should I say, after that answer, trashed. Madam Minister, will you and the Minister of Community and Social Services move immediately to restore affordable, accessible and supportive housing to the disabled in Hamilton and in Markham as they have so long awaited?

Hon Ms Gigantes: To put it very simply, the Ministry of Housing agrees to build housing; it does not provide services. The group which sponsors the project is responsible for having the agreement. When the member says the group was promised, the group was certainly promised housing, which the Ministry of Housing has delivered, as she pointed out. It is the responsibility of the group, however, to make sure that support services are available when they are making promises to people to whom they make promises.

In this case the Ministry of Housing has been working with the March of Dimes to try to see if in some of these cases, and there have been more than two projects involved—in some of these cases we have been able to work out arrangements; in others it hasn't happened yet.

1520

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Minister of Labour. On November 21, 1991, in response to a question I asked you regarding the

Workers' Compensation Board and the hearings it is conducting on the inclusion of stress, you indicated, "The member understands that the Workers' Compensation Board operates on its own; it has an arm's-length relationship with the government," and I agree it should.

In light of this arm's-length relationship between the WCB and the government, can you explain why a new pilot project was recently announced, as part of the Ontario government relocation program for Windsor, which will see the expansion of the WCB bureaucracy by some 150 to 200 positions, thereby using the WCB levies on employers to fulfil the government's political commitments?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I'm sure the member realizes that the WCB does operate on its own and that we are not directing it in terms of its operations.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Time for oral questions has expired. Motions? Petitions?

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Prior to the start of question period today the member for Mississauga West stood on a point of order, and we on this side of the House think it's important in so far as you've decided to look at it.

But, Mr Speaker, we also want to point out, and we would hope you would consider, that during the entire question period over half of the Liberal caucus in fact was not present. We on this side of the House encourage them to attend so at least they would take the opportunity, on behalf of their constituents whom they're supposed to be representing, to ask questions of the ministers of the crown and in order to obtain the necessary information.

We recognize that with the nice weather it's very difficult to get an early tee-off time on days like this unless you book far enough in advance. What we want to suggest to the members opposite is that, this being the case, they should be looking at booking some tee-off times so they get an earlier tee-off time much further in advance.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member take his seat, please.

To the member for Kitchener, I appreciate the contribution and his advice and, as I had indicated earlier, a point was raised by the member for Mississauga West. I undertook to review the matter and to report back as soon as possible.

Mr Mahoney: I don't know if it's even worth responding so I won't, but on a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like to make it absolutely clear that my point of order was based, to you, sir, on a question that surrounds parliamentary tradition. Parliamentary tradition is that the opposition compiles a list of questions that it wishes to ask and that we share House duty among all of our colleagues throughout the week.

The tradition also requires that members of the government—the cabinet forms the government—be here so that we indeed have the opportunity to ask those questions. We

meet each morning to discuss who will be up and who will be asking the questions.

All this member is showing is that he's completely insensitive to the parliamentary traditions that are long-standing in this place. They do not include having 40% of the government being absent. We were here prepared to do our job, organized, set up with our questions so that we could ask the government and hold it accountable, and it's completely irresponsible that 40% of the cabinet—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. The member has reiterated the points he drew to my attention earlier. I will deal with the matter.

PETITIONS

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): This is a petition relating to the annexation of the city of London. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendations of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

It's signed by a number of people who are very concerned about that issue.

RENT REGULATION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition. It reads:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings;

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all; and to ensure that in this new legislation the

interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with the recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental apartment buildings to be financed and completed."

This petition is signed by hundreds of people. I affix my signature.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I have a petition as well.

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendations of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I've affixed my signature to that, Mr Speaker.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a petition signed by not a large number of people—there are about 20 here—but it has come to me through—I'm not sure how I got it, but it is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase jobs losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I've signed this and I hope that Larry O'Connor, the member for Durham-York, will hear it, because he's on a television program with me tonight on this.

1530

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992

MODIFIANT LA LOI DE LA TAXE SUR L'ESSENCE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act / Loi portant modification de la Loi de la taxe sur l'essence.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I realize the member for Etobicoke West has the floor.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Let me just grab my Agenda for People. This document enters into this debate on a very interesting level. The level it interests me at is that during the 1990 election there was much talk made at that time of taxation, of who was going to be taxed, how they would be taxed, how this government was going to pay for the multitude of promises it made on the campaign trail.

Not once in the Agenda for People, the document the member for York South used to outline his ideas of government, was it ever mentioned about a gasoline tax. In fact, Mr Speaker, if you check the Hansards when this government was in opposition, you will find there was much made about a fair billing, a fair gas price across the province of Ontario.

As recently as a few days ago in this House the member for Kitchener was standing in his place as the public apologist for the oil companies, arguing about the cost of transportation and the disproportionate pricing in certain areas in this province. So let me say right off the top that the policy this government had in opposition is very, very different from the policy it has in government.

When we analyse the taxes they spoke of on those fateful days in August and early September 1990 we see a minimum corporate tax, the old minimum corporate tax, which seems to have fallen through the cracks in this government's manifesto. No longer are we discussing minimum corporate tax, because what happened was very surprising. The member who is the Treasurer today has now found very clearly that those companies he was hoping to extract literally hundreds of millions of dollars from—and in some cases, he was adding this up to be billions of dollars—were in fact not paying the taxes for very fair, legal and responsible reasons. So today we have a Treasurer who does nothing short of the public backstroke when it comes to minimum corporate tax.

We have the tax fairness for the working poor promise that I am not certain this government has lived up to. In fact, in the last budget it increased taxes on people earning somewhere in the range of \$20,000 a year.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): I wish to remind the honourable member for Etobicoke West that Bill 86, an increase in gasoline tax, is the subject matter. I would really appreciate it if he could limit his remarks to Bill 86.

Mr Stockwell: In a very broad sense, I am dealing with the tax implications and the tax promises, and then in

fact the taxes levied by this government, so in a broad sense we must examine this debate from many angles. One of the most important angles that I think you can measure any debate from is the angle of what this government promised during a campaign period and what this government in fact delivered.

The point I'm trying to make to you, Mr Speaker, is that what this government promised during the 1990 campaign and what this government is in fact delivering are two very different, distinctly different things.

We talk about succession duties on estates of the rich and the superrich: not to be heard of. The speculation tax: We haven't heard a thing about the spec tax and so on and so forth. But what we have had from this government are 22 tax increases—changes in taxes—in two years. Not one of those tax changes, not one of those revenue changes they've introduced has dealt at all with the promises they made in that election of 1990. Some are saying on the streets—they're saying it in Etobicoke and I know they're saying it in Scarborough and probably in some of the ridings of members from across the floor—that maybe—

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): You don't know what they're saying in Etobicoke.

Mr Stockwell: I know exactly what they're saying. I speak with a number of citizens across Metropolitan Toronto and in Ontario as well. Some are saying that maybe these promises they made with respect to tax fairness were not considered, that maybe some of these promises were simply echoed without much thought and that maybe some of these promises were deceitful. That's what some of the people are saying.

When it comes to Bill 86 the same kind of conversation has been had. The same kind of concern is brought forward. Not once during that campaign in August and September 1990 did the government across the floor talk about increasing the gas tax. Yet here we are today, after seeing two budgets—if you include the real deficit, probably \$22 billion to \$25 billion in deficit financing—and we'll see an increase in the gas tax and the alcohol tax and the cigarette tax and the tax on the working poor. This budget very clearly has included a tax on the working poor; in fact, so much so that if you earn somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$20,000 a year you'll be paying as much as \$40 to \$45 more a year in taxes. This was never debated.

What do we mete out by this? Where does the debate turn in this House when we have Bill 86 coming forward? A tax on the union worker, a tax on the car retailer and a tax on an industry that is staggering from this economic upheaval. And we've increased the tax on the gasoline that will do nothing at all to rejuvenate this struggling industry. What do we take from that? What I take is this: What the government of today said in the 1990 election isn't worth the powder to blow it to Haiti. It's becoming very apparent when we discuss Sunday shopping and their total abdication of that promise. We discuss casino gambling and no-fault auto insurance and we talk about all the promises made by this pack. This pack—and I use that word—of socialists, during the 1990 debate, has all eroded and basically flip-flops have taken place in this House.

There will be some argument made by this group, this motley crew across the floor that has been elected.

Interjections.

Mr Stockwell: I'm doing my best, Mr Speaker; I know they're getting restless. But there will be some debate from across the floor that they've entered into a very difficult economic recession. The answer must be put to them that there are issues involved in the Agenda for People, not the least of which is Bill 86 and the gas tax, that have nothing to do with fiscal responsibility and revenue generation and tax. They simply are to do with the principles and values that the government held dear on this side of the House, and that it apparently, much to the chagrin of the rank and file NDPers of this province, no longer does.

I am now faced with the unenviable task of going out in the province today and trying to help explain these new tax measures that have been brought forward, not the least of which is the gas tax.

The other point I think should be made very clear is that the government across the floor seems to think tax increases are inevitable. They sell this tax hike as, "We must use it to raise revenue." I think that's the basic mistake, the basic flaw in the argument of the socialists. They assume that taxes and tax increases are inevitable.

1540

I think the debate we need to centre on today is not the Bill 86s of the world, not the increase in the surtax, not reducing the wealth tax from \$83,000 to \$53,000; that's not the debate we must enter into. The debate that must take place is taking the same revenue pie, and rather than adding to that pie through new taxes or increases in licences to camp in the province of Ontario—which is another interesting method they've got in raising more revenue—you must take the same pie and spend it differently. You must have priorities.

This is where the Bill 86 debate is centred around a discussion that we have in this House and that they do not have in the general public. The general public isn't talking about new ways of taxation and new ways of extracting money from their pockets. They're asking me, and I believe they're asking the members opposite, to take the same revenues, take the same amount of money you've had in the past, and spend it differently. If they have priorities over there, Mr Speaker, they should take from those that aren't so important and spend it on their priorities. This is why this debate we have in this House is so totally excluded from reality, because no one in the general public is talking about—

Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): Talk about utter reality.

Mr Stockwell: Ah, they suggest reality. No one in the general public is talking about new ways to tax. They're not talking about new sources of revenue. They're not talking about how the government can access any more of the money I make. They're talking about how government can change its spending priorities, how government can economize and become more efficient so that maybe it takes less money to operate, or you can take

money from one area and put it into another if that's what your priority is.

In effect we're living in a bubble here. We're living in the bubble because we have members who are talking about tax hikes on gasoline and what's an acceptable level. You often hear from the other side of the House, "It's only 1.7 cents, and it's 3.4 cents according to the two hits we're going to give them." Somebody's got to get through to this government and tell it very clearly: It matters not if it was 0.4 cents; it matters not if it was one cent; the simple fact is that people are sick of paying taxes and they're sick of paying increased taxes.

You can debate all you want about previous governments. We saw the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology stand in this House the other day and in my opinion put forward one of the most foolish arguments that any member today could put forward. He defended the tax hike on the gas tax—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: I'll ignore him.

He defended his decision on the gas tax hike because he said previous governments have increased it by more. That's the best defence this government can offer: Previous governments did it, so we're going to do it. That's as much thought, as much background and as much work as they've done to defend the decisions of increased taxes on the people of the province today. It's absolutely asinine. It's insane to tell me the best defence you have for increasing gas taxes is that previous governments did it.

When I go across Ontario and Metropolitan Toronto and through Etobicoke and I say to them that as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology offered, the defence for increases in gas tax and alcohol and cigarettes and personal income tax is, "The governments previous to us have done that; therefore, we have a right to do it too," their response, I will say, is categorical. It's right across the board, no matter what party of people you talk to. They say to them, "That's unacceptable, it's irresponsible and it's schoolyard logic: Because he can do it, I can do it." That's exactly what's harming this province today: the shortsighted, ill-conceived debate that we get from opposite. The best this government comes up with is, "Previous governments did it, so we should do it too."

Not only is this the wrong time—and much has been made about the best time for taxes and the worst time for taxes; when it's acceptable to increase taxes and when it isn't. I will say categorically right now that I don't think in the next 10 years you'll find a government elected in this province that will be able to raise taxes of any significant proportion at all; otherwise, in my opinion, they'll be kicked out of office. I think the people of Ontario are that fed up. The point has clearly been missed by the members opposite. It was clearly missed in this budget and it was clearly missed in portions of the last budget.

To measure the impact of this gas hike, you only have to go to places like Windsor, Niagara Falls, St Catharines and Cornwall and you can measure the devastation of this kind of tax. What it does is breed cross-border shopping. It breeds an attitude by our constituents, the people of Ontario,

that justifies in their minds a right to shop outside the province. That right is justified in their minds because we are so overtaxed, so overregulated. "I should be able to go across the border, because I can't get a fair price in this country." That's the justification the taxpayers use. When you add more gas tax, when you add more cigarette tax and alcohol tax, you're just breeding that contempt.

I don't want to go on at great length, because I think it's been discussed. Clearly, I get the impression that it matters not the arguments you put forward in this House. They've got an agenda. They're sticking to this agenda, which is completely different from the agenda they ran on, and it's absolutely pointless to continue pointing out the folly of their ways.

I was on a debate the other night with one of the members across the floor. They're going to insist, as in that debate, that this budget they've brought forward is a good budget for the people of Ontario. In fact, they're going to insist that the numbers they have used in the budget are accurate, they're going to insist that the numbers they have added are truthful. Anyone who has the capacity to add and subtract—and I'm certain some of those backbenchers there can do it—knows full well that this budget is a house of cards, and on Bill 86 it's the same debate.

This budget will collapse when the deficit is in fact noted. It will be at \$12 billion, \$13 billion or \$14 billion. Considering that casino gambling is coming along, I would gladly accept any wager from any member across the floor as to whether your deficit will be \$9.9 billion come the end of the year. Just like the gas tax, this is another folly, another shortsighted mistake by this government which thinks it can kid the people.

Because eventually, like the gas tax, the price goes up at the pump. Eventually the Treasurer is going to have to come back to this House in a few short months and admit publicly, not only to the opposition members but to the members of his own party, who so blindly believe him—like lap dogs, they believe these numbers he puts out; they blindly trust him—without any capacity to debate, he is going to have to admit that the numbers he put into the 1992-93 budget are fantasy. The budget itself should have started with the line "Once upon a time," because that's how much credibility and credence it will have.

Mr Speaker, not to belabour it, I thank you for your attention. To the few members across the floor, I thank you. I would only ask that when you examine these tax hikes on gasoline, alcohol, personal income tax, taxing the poor, hitting the middle class, when you send out your next newsletter—I don't send them out, as I think they are propaganda and wasteful, but if you across the floor do send them out, why don't you ask your constituents whether they agree with the tax hikes in your budget, whether they agree with increased taxes on gasoline, whether they agree with increased taxes on alcohol and cigarettes etc? I think the response you will get will either shock you or you will begin to question the pulse your leadership has on the community known as the province of Ontario.

1550

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I know I have only two very short minutes to respond to some of the member's comments. What you've heard from the member for Etobicoke West is a classic Conservative response whenever you talk about any tax measures: the finger-pointing. "You promised. How can you raise taxes? How can you do this? How can you go into the pockets of Ontario residents? How can you extract the last dollars they have jingling around in their pockets?"

There's no polite and nice way to talk about taxes. When you talk about any kinds of tax measures, whether they be gas tax measures, income tax measures, property tax measures, I'm sure if you went around and asked each member in this House individually, "Do you support raising taxes?" each and every one of us will say no. But you have to live within certain fiscal realities.

Obviously, if you want to provide some of the services you need to provide in the province for some of our needier residents, you're always going to have to look at some tax measures to be able to deliver on responsible government. What you've seen happen in our budget is, for the first time, a lessening of the burden on what I would call middle-income earners and workers in the province, because you'll quite clearly see that their incomes and their income taxes will not change within the coming year.

You hear from George Bush, "No new taxes," and he raised taxes; from Mulroney's Conservatives, "Elect us, we're not going to raise any taxes," then you get the GST. This is another one of those Conservative arguments.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia): I know precedent in this House suggests I should not comment on the incorrect statements by the member for Downsview, so I will not. I'll leave it to his constituents to determine how accurate his last statement was.

But on the remarks of the member for Etobicoke West, I suggest that he makes a very good point, that this budget that has been presented is all about confidence and credibility: confidence in the NDP Rae government and the credibility of not only Treasurer Laughren but also Premier Bob Rae.

All we have to do is look at last year's budget, where the Treasurer predicted an outrageous deficit of \$9.7 billion and missed that target by \$1 billion. This year they are predicting \$9.9 billion, again a deficit which I think the people of the province have cause to be very concerned about, concerned not only by the size of the deficit but also by the accuracy of those projections.

I've been reviewing over the last few days analyses by the major banks: Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal, to be specific. Both placed the real number in the \$12-billion range, which I believe is of real concern as this will cause many to question the credibility of the Treasurer.

We on the Liberal side of the House and our leader Lyn McLeod have questioned repeatedly the Treasurer and the Premier about what we have referred to as questionable accounting practices. If the people of this province—small business, entrepreneurs and those who would invest

here—look at this budget and look at the performance of Premier Rae, Treasurer Laughren and the NDP government, it's my concern they may come to the conclusion that this budget has no credibility. I thank the member for Etobicoke West for pointing this out.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I want to comment briefly on the member for Etobicoke West's statement. I've been here in this Legislature some 11 years now. This is the first time I've ever seen us deal with a budget after another budget has already been read. I find it totally unacceptable that this government cannot proceed with legislation and have the bills passed in this House within one year of a budget being read.

I remember sitting here listening to the member, the now Treasurer, indicating to us that gas tax has got to be the same across this province. I remember hearing the Treasurer adamantly saying: "The people in the north are not being treated fairly. We've got to have the same price of fuel right across this province." His leader was saying the same thing.

Here we are, dealing with Bill 86, a gasoline tax act of the 1991 budget. We're not dealing with the 1992 budget here; we're still dealing with the 1991 budget in which this government wants to increase the price of fuel for the taxpayers of this province. As a matter of fact, they just increased it again as of January 1. Nobody heard about that.

This is the government that last year predicted a \$9.7-billion deficit. What did it come in at? Almost \$11 billion. You never heard or read about that in the budget. What you read was, "We're going to bring in a deficit this year of \$9.9 billion," after last year's was \$11 billion. The debt of this province is some \$62 billion now, thanks to the new government in Ontario. I can tell you, if we continue along the same line as what I've seen, we're in for a real surprise by the time the next two years are up because it will be over \$80 billion. Our grandchildren can thank this government for what it's doing.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one further participant.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the time to respond to the comments made by the member from Etobicoke. I want to bring to the House's attention, as well as the people tuning in, just a couple of the points he raised in order to put them into some perspective.

One of the criticisms I heard in his address to Bill 86 was that this was a bill that was carried forward from last year, and why couldn't it be dealt with in the 1990-91 budget year? Sure, you'd like to be able to do that, but the reality is that this is a normal practice that happens within the assembly. I can remember two bills just off the top of my head from the time we took government that were carryover bills from budgetary bills from previous governments, some of them dating back as far as three budgets before. Because the legislative agenda, as people well understand in this House, is such that you have limited time in

the House, some bills don't get before us on the order paper as quickly as we would like. I would draw to your attention, for example, that the Liberal's Bill 216, that was reintroduced as Bill 10 here, dealt with budget considerations from the 1988, the 1989 and the 1990 budgets.

On the second point, with regard to the tax increases, I understand and I hear what the member is saying, because what the member is saying to a certain extent is important. Nobody out there in the society of Ontario or Canada wants new taxes. There's no question about that. If we all had our druthers, all of us in this assembly and all of us out here as people of the public of Ontario would say in the perfect world, in the optimum world, we would have no new taxes, and we would be able to bring in a budget during the middle of a recession at a 0% increase and at the same time have no deficit.

The reality is that we don't live in that perfect world. The reality is that governments need to have revenue in order to provide those services people want and expect from their governments. For the Conservatives, quite frankly, to stand here and preach to us on the revenue of taxes, I think they only need to look at the federal government's record.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Etobicoke West has two minutes in response.

Mr Stockwell: The members for Cochrane South and Downsview offer the perfect, classic example of exactly what I was talking about. Here are two members who stand to make comment on the speech I offered this House. What do they do? First of all, they talk about the inevitability of taxes; exactly what I was talking about. The member for Cochrane South talks about the length of time it takes to introduce the bills. Clearly he wasn't listening; I didn't talk about that.

Second, what do the members for Cochrane South and Downsview talk about? They talk about other Conservative governments which have done what they did. They can't even accept the responsibility themselves for the broken promises they had during the campaign, so they block it off to other levels of government. They have no ability to accept responsibility, even when they break their promises. "Everybody does it," they say, "so we can do it too."

Exactly the point I was making perfectly transpired here; the analogy was perfect from the members for Cochrane South and Downsview. They don't even know when they're doing it, they do it so often. They've forgotten to think. All they do is stand up and reiterate the same stuff they've been saying for two years. I just commented on that, and yet you got up and proved I was right.

The other point that needs to be made is—the perfect example of another argument I made in my statement was that the member for Downsview stood in his place and started talking about taxes. I said at one point in my debate or discussion that if you read the budget and you simply examine the numbers you know they're different from what the Treasurer's saying. He stood up and said Ontarians would be taxed less with this budget. It's categorically proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that

you're charging more in taxes in all walks of life in Ontario. I should thank them, they're living proof that I'm right.

1600

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on the third reading of Bill 86.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to participate in the third reading of a bill resulting from a budget which took place last year. The unfortunate thing for those of us who would like to elaborate considerably on this bill is that, as the Speaker would point out, third reading limits the debate to whether or not this bill should be read for a third time. That's considerably different in our parliamentary rules than second reading, which allows a speaker to be more liberal in his interpretation of what is relevant to the bill, so I will endeavour to respect that. It will probably limit my speech to somewhat less than an hour, unaccustomed as I am to that short a speech. Nevertheless, I will try to limit it and try to persuade the government that it should not read this bill for the third time.

The first argument against this tax that I think is quite relevant is the timing of the tax. While members have appropriately pointed out that there is never a good time for a tax to be implemented in the province, in the midst of a deep recession—most would concede the deepest recession, the most serious recession we've had since the Great Depression of the 1930s—it's inappropriate to be levying taxes which will take money out of the hands of potential consumers and spenders and place it in the coffers of the government.

I believe that one of the ways to get out of a recession is to allow people and encourage people to spend their money on consumer goods and services that will be required at some time or other. The best time for them to undertake these would be during a recession. They're going to get better prices, quite obviously, and they're going to have more people available to do that, but they have to have the money to do so.

If you look at the previous budget, it had, it seems to me—I could be wrong in this—some 11 tax increases and about \$1 billion if you took a full year into effect. The new one, subsequent to this bill, has 12 tax increases and then a lot of other charges that nobody sees until they go to purchase something or get a service from the government—but about 12 taxes in addition to this.

The net effect—perhaps it's better to say the cumulative effect—of that is to take more and more money out of the hands of the consumers who could assist us in getting out of this recession. Because all of us want to be out of this recession. Often there is a feeling out there that those in opposition enjoy a recession because it proves the government can't somehow manage the economy.

I don't think it helps anybody, however, and I've always hoped there would be issues I could pursue rather than issues that related to the hardship experienced by people. The timing is not appropriate for this tax, if indeed there is ever an appropriate timing for a tax. I guess the public never likes it, but I think this is inappropriate.

Second, the effect on cross-border shopping is probably felt more by those of us who represent communities in close proximity to the American border. The member for Sault Ste Marie would experience this—the member for Cornwall and even the area you represent, Mr Speaker, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and other parts of the province add on to that.

People make the trip to the United States, make purchases and then come back. Windsor's another area I think of that's quite prominent in that regard. Anywhere in close proximity to the American border we find more and more people making the trip to the United States to make purchases.

This is not a new phenomenon as far as cross-border shopping is concerned, but in the past the reasons seem to have been that because a certain item wasn't available in Canada, people tended to go to the United States; or there might have been the odd item that might have been significantly cheaper. But today it's become a habit.

I suggest to the House that if this bill is allowed to pass and if this tax increase is not abandoned, it's going to encourage more people to go south of the border because they go for three loss-leaders, as I call them. Stores put loss-leaders up in the window. They advertise them. They don't make much money on them but they get people into the store and then they'll make other purchases. Those three loss-leaders are gasoline, alcoholic beverages and cigarettes.

In the past, at least two of them were seen to be sin taxes and the third, "Well, if you tax gasoline I guess it's not bad because it somehow discourages people from using their vehicles and the environment will be better and so on." But what has happened is that the impact on the Ontario economy has been dramatic in that people are now heading to the other side of the border primarily to make that gasoline purchase. While they're there they purchase cigarettes and alcoholic beverages and perhaps consume a meal over there and perhaps make other purchases. So what may seem to have been a fair and reasonable or at least a sustainable tax in the past has in fact had a bad net effect on the province. That's why I think it would be unwise to have this bill proceed through third reading and be proclaimed and put into effect, just as I will be speaking to the so-called gas guzzler tax, Bill 130, which I believe is in the same category and would not be wise to proceed with.

Every time we increase the taxes on gasoline we increase the cost of doing business in the province. Again, when the economy booms, people will still complain about it, but when the economy booms people tend to be able to make their purchase in any event. They tend to be able to operate their businesses in any event as long as that burden isn't too great from too many different directions. But we are in a situation where we're increasing the cost of doing business for the private sector in Ontario. That's why I think there's a compelling reason for not proceeding with this tax in third reading.

As I left St Catharines this morning, I saw that in every service station the price of gasoline coincidentally had gone up to 55.9 cents a litre, I believe. It has always been a

mystery to me how it's not against the Competition Act of Canada for gasoline stations in Ontario, retailers, to all put their gas up to exactly the same price or within a 10th of a cent.

You've sat in this House for some 11 years, I believe, Mr Speaker; it could be even longer than that. I know you've heard the same argument I have. I divert only very momentarily in this direction, because I've heard all the different ministers over the last 15 years give the answer on why the price of gasoline is what it is. We had a Conservative minister, Bob Elgie. I remember asking him the question years ago. He gave me the answer about monitoring it and that it was due to several reasons, and I won't get into that at this time.

Then people asked the Liberal ministers, Vince Kerrio and Lyn McLeod, about the price of gasoline. Lo and behold, the same notebook was in front of them, because they gave the same answer. Then it was asked of the member for Peterborough and the member for Kitchener—the member for Hamilton Mountain hasn't had that question yet—and coincidentally the answer was the same every time. A Tory government, a Liberal government and an NDP government, and the answer in the answer book of the minister is the same.

So there is a concern about the price of gasoline. My friend the member for Renfrew North makes a point perhaps more valid than some of us in close proximity to Toronto, that when you go down into eastern Ontario into a more rural area of the province and when indeed we get into your area, Mr Speaker, people have to use their vehicles. There isn't GO Transit there, there are no buses running on an hourly basis and the trains don't run as often as they used to. To do business, to visit the doctor or whatever they have to do, people must use their vehicles. That tax is a tax on everyone in the province, whether they are rich people or poorer people, in terms of the amount of money and resources and assets they have. So I see that coming forward.

I have not seen an answer to the fixing of gas prices in Ontario. I would have expected that, of all governments, an NDP government would have had the answer to that. I can just imagine the speeches that were made in certain halls across the province about what they were going to do about those gas companies when they got into power. Then, if I were being provocative, I would say they end up being in the pockets of the gas companies. I don't want to be provocative this afternoon, so I won't say that.

1610

It must be difficult for my friends in the New Democratic Party and their supporters to be defending the government at the present time, because everything that the government stood for in its platform and in opposition seems to be fading away. The same people who used to harshly criticize Liberal and Conservative governments on taxes of this kind and other measures, people who are strong activists, now have to be apologists for the government of Ontario. It must be difficult for those people of principle who genuinely believe in those policies to now watch those policies changing.

We get hints now—we don't see it on this tax; I wish we did—that the government is going to be backpedalling and retreating on its Sunday shopping stand. I remember editorials in a lot of publications among those who support the NDP which were very much in support of the former position, I think now, of the NDP on that position, and the same could be said of casino gambling.

But I do want to deal with this tax in a more narrow sense: how it affects everyone in the province. It affects the operation of the government of Ontario because we have to pay taxes on our own gasoline, and it affects the municipalities, which are finding it tough now to make ends meet. There was a time when people would say, "Well, municipalities, like every other level of government, probably have some fat in the budget." They could say that of provincial, federal and local governments. Suffice it to say today that most of the fat that was there, if there was any fat, has been removed, and so our regional government, our city government, our boards of education, our various agencies, boards and commissions must spend additional money in their operation because they have to pay this additional tax on gasoline.

The only way they can raise funds other than going to the provincial government, which has been quite miserly this year in terms of the 1% it is prepared to give them, is to raise property taxes, and all of us know that property taxes are not fair in that they do not take into account a person's ability to pay. I think someone once said, "From each according to his ability; to each according to his need." I remember seeing that somewhere in some literature years ago when I was studying the New Democratic Party and international socialism. I can remember great speeches by Tommy Douglas in the past that included that particular phraseology, and there was something compelling in that to many people in this province. But we are seeing now, through this tax, the government of Ontario imposing new costs on local government, costs which can only be handled by cutting needed services or by raising the property tax, which is a regressive tax.

I also look at tourism. In your part of the province—indeed, to be fair, in most parts of the province—tourism's an important industry. Our American friends come to Ontario and one of the things they notice immediately is the cost of gasoline, and so that starts to deter some of them.

By the way, I'm glad the government did not increase certain other measures it was talking about that may hit tourism, because I remember some of the speculation about it. But in this specific case the cost of gasoline, whether it's in Fort Erie, represented by the chief government whip, or St Catharines, or Chatham-Kent, which is a tourist mecca, to be sure, or Wallaceburg and others, we all know that people would normally come to this part of the province, even with the representation that exists for that area at the present time, if only it didn't cost so much for gasoline.

There is a lot of potential. They would even come to the edges of Algonquin Park. Now they couldn't go into Algonquin Park. Mind you, they're liable to run into the saws that are cutting the trees down in Algonquin Park along that logging road the government financed, but we

won't get into that issue at the present time, as the member from Pembroke turns his head and looks in an accusatory manner at the member for St Catharines.

But the issue of tourism is exceedingly important to the province, and that's why, with this tax, I think it would be wise for the government to withdraw it.

I was surprised, quite frankly, as you may have been, Mr Speaker, that the NDP government, or at least the party, which has been noted in the past for talking about the rights of Parliament, the rights of this Legislature, was about to impose closure the other afternoon. When the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology got up, he wanted to impose a closure motion after only short hours of debate on this important issue. That certainly surprised me, and it must have surprised the individual in the chair who was Speaker at the time, because he ruled against the opportunity to impose closure at that time. But I can remember many a speech, some eloquent speeches, made by members of the New Democratic Party in opposition about the dastardly—that's spelled with a "d"—use of the tool known as closure.

I don't know how I can fit consumer gambling into this speech; I somehow don't think I can. Maybe I could say that I suppose if the government were to impose this tax, it could avoid casino gambling in the province. But it looks as though Mr Woodsworth, Mel Swart, Fred Young, so many of the New Democrats of the past who have been opposed to it—Jimmy Porter, a strong supporter of the New Democratic Party; you could name anybody. I'm sure I could name the member for Chatham-Kent as a person who in the past would have been opposed to consumer gambling. Maybe he thought that if this tax passed, his government wouldn't have to bring in consumer gambling. Mr Temple, who used to be the conscience of the New Democratic Party in matters of alcohol and gambling, was an individual who would have been surprised to hear that this would be contemplated, let alone that it would be contained in an NDP budget.

So the old CCFers, the people I admired so much, people I could name one after another from years gone by, people for whom some of my relatives voted over the years, would be very shocked and surprised at the fact that this government is now resorting to casino gambling.

You will recall when the previous government just brought a different lottery in—the same lottery operation, but a different lottery—the scorn and ridicule from the now Minister of the Environment and the now Premier about that. Yet I see that one of the editorials—I wouldn't call a person this, because I'm polite in this House—calls the Premier of the province "Blackjack Bob" because he wishes to bring in casino gambling.

But I don't know if this tax is going to influence that decision, so I won't dwell on it other than to say that I found it interesting that Rob Martin of London, Ontario, wrote a long article in the London Free Press about why he does not support the New Democratic Party any more. Maybe in the budget debate—

Interjection.

Mr Bradley: He was an NDP candidate twice.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): He's a Liberal candidate now—watch.

Mr Bradley: We will see what happens. In any event, in another speech I will get into attacking this government from the left, which is very easy to do now that the government has brought in this measure and is abandoning all of its principles. That's when it's most fun: attacking an NDP government from the left.

Anyway, we have the NDP tax commission—I don't call it the Fair Tax Commission; I call it the NDP tax commission—which is stacked with people who might want new and different taxes. I hope the NDP tax commission looks at this tax and informs the government that it is a regressive tax which is not going to be beneficial to Ontario.

As I mentioned, many people don't have mass transit. In Toronto there is mass transit, and I really like the TTC. I know it's had to cut back its services, but it has been one of the leaders, I think, in North America in terms of mass transit. I certainly support the government supporting that kind of mass transit. We don't have it in St Catharines. There are some people who'd like to see it there. We do have some trains that come in there, but there are so many areas in the province that do not have government-subsidized mass transit and rely upon gas that it shows how regressive this tax can be.

I listened to some of the interventions in response to the member for Etobicoke West about taxes and so on. I guess the point I continue to make in this House is not that the New Democratic Party is worse, in terms of public morality, than the other parties. It's just that it is no better than the other parties, and it always pretended to be.

I think the sanctimony—I try to be not as provocative as I could—of the Premier's pronouncements in opposition, on the campaign trail and in his previous life when he was not in government come back to haunt him. That sanctimony comes back to haunt him because we now see that the same government which in opposition criticized taxes of this kind is in fact implementing those kinds of taxes. The whole point is that the NDP was going to be different. That's another speech I can get into, on how I genuinely believed—and I've never considered myself to be politically naïve—that the NDP was going to be different.

1620

One thing I want to commend them on, as the Minister for Transportation comes in, is following through on Liberal policy. This relates to this gas tax because it's transportation. I was pleased to see the Minister of Transportation in our city last Thursday. He had announced, for the seventh time, that jobs were going to come to the city of St Catharines. I was very pleased because there was a site, two signs were erected there, and the minister's name wasn't on either sign. I commend him for that, because that was always propaganda we saw from previous governments that I never thought was necessary. The minister's name is not on them, but there were two signs there, one in French and one in English. The minister was very kind in his remarks on the platform that day.

I want to commend the government for following through on the Liberal announcement to move the 1,400 Ministry of Transportation jobs to St Catharines. They will be moving just in time for after the election, when either the member for St Catharines-Brock, if the NDP is returned, or the member for St Catharines can safely assume the position of Minister of Transportation and not have to come to Toronto all that often. I was interested to know that the former Deputy Minister of the Environment is moving to Transportation. I can tell the Minister of Transportation that he has gained an asset in Gary Posen coming to his ministry to work with him.

I was also pleased, in a mode of transportation—because this doesn't take gasoline, I don't think; it probably uses a different fuel—that he was there to have his wife give the christening of the Pelee Island ferry, which is called the Jjimann. We were all very pleased, the sun was shining, the workers were very proud of this. Once again, a policy which was supported by the previous Liberal government moving in that direction was followed through on by the New Democratic Party.

So one can't always be critical of the government. There are occasions when we have a government following through on previous policies. I think it's only appropriate that I commend this Minister of Transportation and the Chair of Management Board for proceeding with those two policies.

We were delighted to see the minister in town. He was his usual cordial self. He was witty, as always, urbane for a fellow from Manitouwadge, where we expect he's going to be closer to the earth and the grass roots, but he's still urbane when it calls for it. He did share with us the problems I could see in his riding with this tax, the largest riding in all the province of Ontario, the riding of Lake Nipigon, where I don't think there are many places I could go where I wouldn't need a car; he has other places he can't even get to by car. I could see that his constituents would be hit by this tax and I strongly suspect that within the confines of cabinet he is recommending against third reading of this particular bill, although I cannot say that I speak for him. But I did want to say some nice things about him because he was, I thought, very appropriately kind and well received in the city of St Catharines. He'll always be welcome in our community.

I regret that the Premier is not in the House for this debate. We're not supposed to say who's in the House and who's not, but the Premier is not in the country; let's put it that way. He is travelling the world once again for some reason or other that he can justify; I won't get into being critical of that. But it's unfortunate. The House sits only a short period of time. It was supposed to reconvene on March 9 of this year. I was eager to have it come back in January so I could deal with important issues of the day, but I was unable to. I thought: "It's coming back on March 9, in any event. I'll be able to deal with this gas tax and persuade the government not to have third reading." Instead, they postponed it to March 23. Then finally on April 6 they got up enough nerve to come back into the Legislature and be subject to the very detailed and sharp question-

ing of members of the opposition. Therefore, we see that the government is afraid to deal with these matters.

If you wonder why this tax hasn't been dealt with before, one of the reasons is that the government refused to bring the House back into session. Again, many of the people in opposition who were strong supporters of the communities wanted to come back early so they could deal with matters of a tax nature.

We also understand why the government may need some of this money. They may need it so that they can have the polls they conduct. They have different polls they take. I listened as the Minister of Transportation said the other day that 70% cent of the people wanted something; he was quoting something. I heard the Solicitor General quoting polls. When they were in opposition I thought they were different. The Liberals conducted polls.

Mr Hope: The new CAT scan.

Mr Bradley: The member for Chatham-Kent mentions the new CAT scan. The full cost will be assumed by the people of St Catharines in a fund-raising drive if it were in St Catharines. In this case it's in Welland and the people of Welland will have to pay the full capital cost of that. There is a major cost. There was a big fight on the government side over where it was going, whether to Niagara Falls or Welland. The member for Niagara South is smiling so we know where it did go. The member for Niagara Falls will be working hard to see that it goes there.

I, on the other hand, was not parochial at all. I was just pleased to see that we had a second one somewhere in the Niagara region to meet the needs of the people. The people of Niagara region will pay the full capital cost of that and none of this gas tax will be utilized for that purpose.

I thought they may have said we should proceed with third reading of this bill so they could have money to do polling. I remember when the Premier of this province knew where he stood on every issue, knew what the province needed and wasn't waiting for the latest puff of wind to tell him which way the flag was flying, which way the wind direction indicated it was pointing at that time. It's unfortunate that he has continued the policy of other governments—again, he was going to be different—of conducting public opinion polls at the public's expense with the taxes derived from this particular tax, if it passes, and of course refusing to share the results with members of this Legislature in a timely fashion.

I know the Premier is in Europe now. The Minister of the Environment is in Europe, so she can't hear this speech. I know she'd be very interested in it. Who knows who else will be travelling over there at public expense soon while we're debating this important issue?

Or the money could be applied, I suppose, to the consultation committee. It has four Cs in it—I forget what they stand for. All I know is that they were going to use lists creatively. Something came out of the chief government whip's office that said, "Use these lists creatively," so we can be sure that everybody will be on the NDP mailing list now for fund-raising and other purposes. I think some of the money must be coming from this tax, or they anticipate they're going to pass this tax in third reading so they

would have it. I hope they abandon that kind of public manipulation and self-serving advertising, and they will abandon it surely if they abandon this tax. That's another reason I think it's important that it be abandoned.

We can't say this government has been different this year than other governments. The newly elected NDP government in British Columbia has applied all kinds of new taxes, none of which was mentioned in the election campaign. The government of Saskatchewan, newly elected with an NDP Premier, has applied all kinds of new taxes in the province of Saskatchewan; again, none of those taxes mentioned in the election campaign.

Where is Tommy Douglas? Where is Stanley Knowles? Where are the pillars of the CCF from years gone by: Mr Winch, a strong supporter; Bob Carlin, before they kicked him out of the party? Bob Carlin was a little too left for the party. I think my father voted for Bob Carlin in Sudbury when we lived up there, but he was a little too radical for the party so they kicked him out because he didn't adhere to all of its policies. In those days, of course, it was really something to be left of the CCF. Today it wouldn't be very hard to be left of the NDP, according to some members of the New Democratic Party.

Anyway, I must ask what those people would think of this transformation of the New Democratic Party to what it is, because it used to be a party—I admired a lot of them. As I say, I used to think of the riding of Kootenay East and Vancouver East, Winnipeg North Centre and Winnipeg North. They had only eight ridings at one time, in the Diefenbaker years. All those people in those ridings, if they could be here today—some of them, may their souls rest in peace, are no longer with us. But were they here they would certainly be opposed to the third reading of this bill.

I indicated to members of the House that on this occasion I did not expect I would be going beyond half an hour. I think I've outlined a number of reasons within the confines of third reading, the confines being the rules of the House, as to why I do not believe this tax should be proceeded with, why it should not proceed to third reading. I only hope the government—as I hope it does with Bill 130, the tax on auto workers—will withdraw this tax and that tax and that we will have as a result a better province of Ontario.

1630

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mrs Caplan: I've had the opportunity to hear the remarks by my colleague from St Catharines. I've had the opportunity as well to work with him since 1985. Once again, I think the Legislature today and the people watching have been treated to an excellent debate on this piece of legislation.

I know the member for St Catharines has always acted in the interests of his constituents. When he had the opportunity to serve in cabinet the environment was well-served during his term as Minister of the Environment. His emphasis and concerns on the implications of the gas tax, the tax on auto workers and his positive suggestion to the Treasurer of an alternative to this type of tax, which would

be in the interests of the environment, would serve not only his constituents in St Catharines well—his constituents who are now suffering because of the decisions of GM—but also the people of this province.

He is to be complimented and commended not only for his years of service to his community but I think for the excellence of his presentation today, which really addressed the issues that are before us here in this Legislature. I would say here in the House how proud I was to hear the remarks of the member for St Catharines and how proud I've been since 1985 to have the opportunity to serve with a man of his stature and calibre.

The speech he made today is a very good example of his commitment to issues that are before us on the legislative agenda. The presentation he made, I think that his constituents in the riding of St Catharines will be interested to know, has been balanced, thoughtful and clear.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: I am not sure who could follow that, but I'll do my best.

Mrs Caplan: You agree with him too.

Mr Stockwell: Oh, gosh.

The most important point I think the member for St Catharines made during his discussion—and being from an automotive town, to some degree—was the tax and the implications on the union workers with respect to this kind of tax.

There's no doubt in my mind, when you levy taxes on the automotive industry, whether it's the environmental tax, the gas guzzler tax—which they've tried to palm off as the environmental tax; much debate was had about that, whether you want to make it an oppressive tax or an incentive tax—and the air-conditioning tax, with the PST, the GST etc, that the automotive industry is facing a very difficult period of time. It's one of the most heavily taxed industries of all, so when you deal with increases, whether it be in gas or whether it be on certain parts and so on and so forth, you're penalizing a group of people who don't have any control, and they are the union workers who assemble or manufacture these cars.

There's no question about it; no one can make the debate. There's a straight correlation between the amount of tax on a car and the number of cars sold. Clearly, when you increase taxes there's a dip in units that are retailed. When you have a dip in the units that are retailed, clearly the union workers involved in assembling or building these cars are affected, because there are job losses. That argument is as simple as time and it's as old as time. It's supply and demand and government intervention etc.

That point should be taken very carefully by this government. In future—and I'm glad we didn't see it in this budget—before any more taxes are levied on gasoline or cars in general, they should think back to the arguments made by the member for St Catharines. These kinds of taxes cost union jobs.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr Hope: It's my pleasure to stand up after the member for St Catharines, who talks about the tax on auto workers. I heard he was in here since 1985, when his government taxed us to death as auto workers and as every worker in this province, as we've seen with the offloading the Liberal government had done.

I think it's important that if they were good economic times from 1985 to 1990, the member said we could have used those dollars in a worthwhile way. I'll refresh his memory about a pipeline that supplied clean water for the people. If we used appropriate calculations we would probably find out that those communities would have benefited much more if the revenues they were taking from the people of the province in good economic times were put to better use. We would have been able to see clean water being supplied to the constituents of my area, who were having to drink contaminated water. So I think it's important.

He also went on to the casino gambling a bit. It's important that he look back into his previous documents about the Liberal government. The Liberal government looked at casino gambling in the past too, and I think that's important to put forward. I think it's important that as this government proceeds under tough economic times one of the things we're doing is taking tax dollars and we are going to regenerate them into jobs, as has been indicated in this budget. This is a budget that we're dealing with where, in the past, every projection was there saying that in one year this recession would turn around. A lot of us knew it wouldn't turn around in one year because of the policies of the federal government and what they were doing to our auto sector and our manufacturing sector. But I think it's important, as we look at creative ideas, like this budget has indicated, to make sure that tax revenues are put back into the community to promote more jobs. I think that is very beneficial.

A lot of the comments the member made are legitimate ones. It's unfortunate that he couldn't have implemented those policies when he was in government, and that we've got to make up for five years of bad government in order to try to turn this economy around and make sure it's more prosperous for the working people of this province.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. We can accommodate one further participant in questions and/or comments.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): I seldom get the impression that you meet your best friend every three, four or five minutes in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. In fact, I've heard it said on many occasions that we aren't always kind to one another. Yet you can't take that as a given, because it's liable to change at a moment's notice.

I wish to depart from the form that is espoused by both parties of Her Majesty's loyal opposition to thank the member for St Catharines for the good deeds vis-à-vis the 1,400 jobs that are being transferred from Renfrew to the community of St Catharines and the \$115 million that will put construction workers back to work. Those are infrastructural endeavours that have meaning. The member stood and paid a compliment, and I want to make sure that

there is some sort of reciprocity in these times of only-too-rare gestures.

The member for Oriole, though, could not resist, Mr Speaker. They have a relationship in the political context, of course, and I know you will wish to send the answer to the Bradley family so that it can keep it for posterity—a rare moment. I don't think that the member, the chef du jour of yesterday, has gone soft, but like many good things in life it begins in the spring. Those were complimentary words indeed, and I hope they don't leave the member when he needs them the most in the fall session.

The Acting Speaker: This completes questions and/or comments. The honourable member for St Catharines has two minutes in response.

Mr Bradley: I was delighted to hear the interventions of various members of the Legislature, some in great praise and others in appropriate chastisement, from their point of view. I say the member for Oriole was extremely kind in her comments, most assuredly. The member for Etobicoke West is acutely aware of these matters related to taxes and their effect on his community and my community. I always appreciate his interventions in the House. I think they're in the interests of trying to get business going in the province. The member for Chatham-Kent has been most appropriately defending the interests of his constituency. He will recall that when I was the Minister of the Environment I made a commitment, which was on the table, to pay the overwhelming cost of a pipeline which was to be built in his constituency. I assume that since we have an NDP government it's probably completed and he has cut the ribbon.

1640

Interjection.

Mr Bradley: He says it hasn't been yet. I understand those things, why it takes so long. Now he has to explain what the previous member had to explain: why it doesn't happen overnight.

There has been progress made; there's no doubt about that. The precedents set in the funding of that pipeline by this government will come back to—I won't say "haunt"—but will be drawn to the attention of this government on many occasions. I would venture to say—I don't want to say I would bet—if the present Environment minister thought for a moment there was a chance they were going to win that election, she would not have made a commitment that's going to come back. The people in Manitouwadge will want the same deal, as will the people throughout the province.

Finally, I would like to thank my friend the member for Lake Nipigon, the Minister of Transportation, for his kind words. It is the spring of the year, but no doubt we will have our differences from time to time.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on the third reading of Bill 86?

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I am pleased to join in this debate today. It is a tradition of opposition parties to dump on governments about the budgets they bring in. Everybody knows this. The government of the day knows it, the people out there who are watching this

show know it. Everybody knows that is part of parliamentary act.

What we're talking about today is the fact that this province is simply overtaxed. We went past the point of being able to tolerate it some length of time ago. In fact it's probable, when we look at Bill 86, that we can say in relationship to the last government that the reason it lost the last election was that it kept piling the taxes on. We know that the past Liberal government had 33 tax increases in those five short years it was in power.

Now this government, in 18 months, is trying to beat their record. They've already added, with the Liberals, up to a total of 55 tax increases, so in six and a half years, the people of Ontario have seen 55 tax increases, which have taken us, in relationship to Bill 86, from a relatively low-tax province to being the most heavily burdened. Indeed we see that the job losses in Ontario have accelerated way beyond the point which any other province has seen and, to a great extent, it's the direction of the government.

We cannot entirely blame the government for the fact that people ask for various handouts. Indeed there's no party in this province that would suggest we should not help the people truly in need. But at a certain point we've got to say, do we get value for our dollars invested? We have seen that the deficit, both last year—I refer to last year because indeed this gas tax that we're debating today in Bill 86 relates to last year's budget, not this year's budget. Through bad management of the government, we haven't even finished debate of the previous year's budget.

Mr McLean: First time in history.

Mr Turnbull: This is the first time in history. For the sake of the people who are watching this program, it's worth noting that we were willing to debate this in the normal parliamentary schedule, but this government decided we weren't going to be called back on to the normal parliamentary schedule, because indeed we know that all the polls they were looking at were saying they were doing extremely badly.

The effect of gasoline taxes is to hurt people in northern Ontario, to hurt people in rural Ontario, to hurt the people who are least able to pay taxes. Gasoline taxes have always been considered to be one of the cash cows and they've been lumped in with the sin taxes, but the difference between alcohol and tobacco and gasoline is that it isn't a sin, it's something that merely takes people to work. We have a huge province, with the people predominantly clustered around southern Ontario. Consequently, all the rural areas absolutely rely on automobiles to get to work, so this is a tax against these people.

I can't help being struck by the strange aspect that the government, which ran on this so-called Agenda for People, should be bringing in so many tax increases. The very first page of the Agenda for People talks about "a minimum corporate tax." We haven't seen any of that, thank goodness. "Tax fairness for the working poor." We certainly approve of that. "Succession duties on estates of the rich and superrich." There are not that many rich and superrich left in this province, and if you do bring in succession duties, we'll see them going

Turning back to Bill 86, I'm struck by the document that was put out by the NDP accompanying the Agenda for People. On page 2, I was struck by a line which says, "Ontario should lead a tax revolt." They were talking about the GST, but it's curious that the tax revolt they wanted to lead ignores the fact that other people in this province might feel like a tax revolt against this government, a government which in this year's budget has brought in more than \$1 billion worth of increases in taxes that are going to hit the middle class and the working poor. It is certainly not something that was contemplated in the Agenda for People. I would suggest that had it been in the Agenda for People, I don't think the people would have voted for a gas tax that is regressive and hurts the very people the government purports to help.

We've had it suggested that this in some way is an environmental tax. This is pure nonsense. We know that half the pollution from cars is caused by 10% of the vehicles. If the government was serious about doing anything about it, it wouldn't tax cars across the board, it would try to address the specific problem. By having a heavy gas tax, you are not addressing the pollution problem. So we know that one goes out the window.

We know the government, from all the taxes it gathers with respect to transportation, raises something in the order of \$2.8 billion. That's gasoline tax, fuel tax for diesels, licences and all those permit things that pertain to operating automobiles and trucks.

This is a government that is not spending the money it collects in the name of the road on roads, yet here we see another increase in taxes. We saw last year, after this budget, a 1.7-cent-per-litre increase in taxes. The government talks about the fact that we haven't had an increase in this year's budget on gasoline. They don't need to put it in this year's budget; they already put it through in January of this year, because this was a two-step increase with the introduction in January of 1.7 cents a litre. I hope the government doesn't seriously believe that the people who watch this program or the people who follow this Legislature are duped by that kind of misrepresentation.

We know one of the greatest reasons for cross-border shopping is trips for gasoline, alcohol and tobacco. Indeed, we are seeing a tremendous loss of income to this province because of cross-border shopping. We have to say, "Is there any way we can address this?" We know with respect to alcohol and tobacco, these are very consciously put on as taxes, in some ways as a disincentive and at the same time to pay for many social programs. I don't think any of us would want to see the kind of social structure they have in the United States and therefore we have to pay for our programs. But quite frankly, when we have a loss of revenue on the scale we've got due to cross-border shopping, the government has got to look seriously at this problem.

There was a study done by Ernst and Young which identified—and that study was done before last year's budget was brought in—that one of the key components for people crossing the border was for gasoline. Once they get across the border for gasoline and alcohol, then indeed they do shop for other things. That takes away job opportunities

for our working people in Ontario. It also takes away some tax revenues that we could otherwise be collecting.

1650

We cannot hang our hats on some vague reason that we need it for environmental reasons. We know that when the Liberals brought in the tire tax they suggested it was for environmental reasons. They've collected in excess of \$100 million on that and they've invested less than \$5 million in environmental technology. In other words, it was just another tax grab. I think it's worth saying that, much as opposition parties like to oppose, we have to have a broader message which goes out beyond all political parties in saying that we cannot allow deficit spending and therefore we have to come together and realize that certain programs probably will have to be cut.

When we're seeing that the government, both last year and this year in the budget, has annual deficits of the order of two fifths of the total budget that the last Conservative government in this province had, you get an idea of the magnitude of the problem. We have gone on a tax binge par excellence. All members of this Legislature, and I don't care which party, have to go out and speak to their constituents and look them in the eye. Let me first of all state that if I went down to Bay Street to the towers of the banks and asked them, "Do you think that you're paying too much tax?" they would say yes. If I went to a union hall and I asked them, "Do you think you're paying too much tax?" they would say yes. Both parties would be equally correct in that assertion.

We know that both parties feel aggrieved. We know that everybody in Ontario feels they're paying too many taxes. It's no good thinking that somebody else is going to pay. We have to come up with the realization that governments cannot be all things to all people. Governments should have tough regulatory policy to ensure that our environment is kept clean. We must make sure that we have a safety net that truly helps the needy. But it shouldn't be a disincentive for people to work. We should not always believe that somebody else is going to pay the taxes. Indeed as my leader, Mr Harris, has said on many occasions, this document, *An Agenda for People*, would have people believe that.

We were told that the Liberals were awful people who were charging too much tax. I agreed. But the New Democrats suggested, yes, they wouldn't charge the taxes to you but there was some other mysterious person who was going to pay the taxes, because they never talked about cuts. Indeed only the Conservative Party ran a fiscally responsible election campaign. I have to say, maybe the people of Ontario want to be fooled, because they didn't want to vote for that platform. It may have sounded miserly but it was economically viable. We wouldn't have had to have some wild change of direction had we had that kind of platform to govern on today. But unfortunately you don't have that kind of platform.

You made wild statements and now you have to live with those: a corporate minimum tax which will drive companies out of the province, succession duties which will drive the rich and the not-so-rich out of the province, and a speculation tax which will also be a disincentive for

people to invest with after-tax dollars. That is the bottom line: that when we start talking about company investment, companies are grounded with after-tax dollars. The companies take the risks in full knowledge that they may lose it all. Then, when they do succeed, they are taxed at a very high rate by the government.

They are full partners. The government is a full partner of a successful corporation but an unsuccessful corporation becomes an orphan. That is the bottom line. Hopefully that is the message that is soaking through to the Treasurer today: that corporations do indeed have to make profits and we shouldn't drive them out of the province, because if we drive them out of the province, it's the workers who suffer. It's the disadvantaged who suffer, because there won't be any money left in the pot.

Having said that, I go back to the fact that every member of every party of this Legislature has got to go back and eyeball their keenest supporters and say, "What services can you do without?" That is the only way we will ever be able to control expenditures in such a way that we'll be able to get on an even keel. If I were to go home and say to my kids, "Well, you know, we've been fairly tight for years, and I think your mother and I are going to just spend like crazy. We're going to have a great time, but we're not going to pay for it. We're going to add up debt and we're going to leave that debt for you kids," I suggest to you my children probably would be a little bit perturbed. That indeed is the parallel, that the taxpayers' children should be rather perturbed that we all are spending beyond our means.

When you have a deficit of two fifths of the total Progressive Conservative budget when we left office, you know you've got a serious problem. I don't know where the members across the floor think the money is going to come from. Is it going to be manna from heaven? You can say, "That's why we're raising taxes." That is the logical argument, but you've got to the point where it's diminishing returns because people are leaving and people are cross-border shopping. There are many people, and I am indeed speaking to the gasoline tax bill, Bill 86, who cannot pay. There are a lot of people who are looking for jobs. They need to put gasoline in their cars, and this kind of tax grab just further exacerbates the situation.

I'm not sure if there's enough will among the government members to go out as I have suggested and speak to their constituents about where their constituents can tighten their belts. I am doing my part. I'm going out to my supporters and those who are not my supporters in my community and I am saying: "We cannot always ask somebody else to shoulder the burden. We have to look at ourselves, because we're all part and parcel of the problem."

We need jobs in this province, and we need good education, and yes, we need to be able to have taxes to pay for the welfare for people out of work. But this is not the way to raise money. Be honest and say, "We cannot do all things." Governments have got too large, and this government, to its credit, has suggested in the last budget that it is going to reduce some of the huge amount of extra civil servants that the Liberals added to the payroll during their five years in office, the 9,000 extra civil servants who are,

I'm sure, good and productive people but who have to be paid out of taxes, taxes which we cannot afford to raise any more.

So when we speak about gasoline taxes, the same theme carries through everything: We cannot afford it. We know that the tourist industry is being negatively affected by the high cost of coming to Ontario. We need a tourist industry; it is a very major industry in this province. I don't think by tinkering around with advertising campaigns we're going to solve that problem. We need to get our costs down for tourists so they want to come back to this province.

I don't think that by adding casinos we're going to solve the problem. So many poor Ontarians will be negatively impacted by casinos. I never, ever believed that the New Democratic Party would bring in casinos. I am absolutely shocked and amazed, and I know that an awful lot of people who have been supporters of the NDP all of their lives are shocked. I'm sure they're shocked at this tax increase which they brought in last year, and they once again hit us this year at 1.7 cents per litre.

I really believe that having the highest gasoline tax in the country is not conducive to building a solid economy. It certainly doesn't help the people of northern Ontario, nor does it help the people of York Mills, my own constituency, who are struggling at this time.

1700

The Acting Speaker (Mr Drainville): Questions and/or comments?

Mr Bisson: I was listening to the debate on the part of the Conservative member, and he raised an analogy I thought was interesting. He used an analogy in regard to what happens within a family should the wage earner lose his or her income. What he was basically trying to say was that the wage earner couldn't do what the government is doing, which is spend willy-nilly and just get its way through the crisis by spending money it doesn't have.

I thought it was interesting because it's always the same, and I really don't want to use this tone. The position put forward by the Conservative caucus is what I guess you can term a simple message. The reality is that there are many families in Ontario that are in exactly the situation the member talked about of not having an income, but certain bills remain: If you lose your job, you still have to pay your rent, you still have to pay for your groceries, you've still got to pay your Hydro and, yes, you still have to pay your phone. Some would argue, "You can do without that, because it's not a necessity," but how is somebody going to get hold of you for work if you haven't got a phone?

The point I'm trying to make is that there are certain necessities the government, like that family, must maintain in time of a recession. To suggest for one second that the government, like the family, would turn around and say, "Listen, you can't have a deficit in a time of recession; you must come in at 0%," and actually legislate that kind of stuff, would hamstring the government, to the detriment of the people of Ontario, or the people of whatever jurisdiction would be responsible, because in the time of recession that family has to pay those particular bills. They can't go

to the grocery store and say, "I'm not paying for my groceries today because I'm not working." They can't turn around and say, "I'm not going to pay my rent." If they do that, they get evicted.

We, like that family, must maintain those essential services so that the people of Ontario do not go through the hardships they would if we were to do exactly what you ask us to do, which is to say: "Forget that there's a recession on. Bring in the budget at 0% increase and don't have any increase." It would be an ideal thing, but you cannot do it. The hardship would be too terrible.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions or comments?

Mrs Caplan: I would like to comment on the remarks of the member for York Mills and perhaps ask him the question of whether he agrees that the first and probably one of the most significant mistakes of the new NDP government over a year ago was to increase the rate of government expenditure to an all-time high, at over 14%, in the first budget and, more specifically, to increase public sector wages by 5.8%. That had the effect, in my opinion, of raising expectations throughout the broader public sector by teachers, municipal workers, hospital workers, university employees and so forth of high wage increases.

When the member for York Mills says he's prepared to go out to people and say, "What services can you do without?" I suggest to him that we wouldn't have to ask those kinds of questions if the government had maintained spending levels a year ago, if it had contained wage demands at a time when we were entering a recession and the economy couldn't support and sustain those kinds of wage increases.

Wouldn't he agree that those teachers and municipal workers and nurses in hospitals who are being laid off are a direct result of the misguided fiscal policies of the NDP in its first budget a year ago, and that at this time now, as we are dealing with gasoline tax, it is to pay for many of those misguided fiscal policies and wage policies of a year ago? Wouldn't he rather be able to go to his constituents and say, "We don't want to have to cut out anything except government's wasteful expenditures, not needed and important services"?

The Acting Speaker: Further comments or questions?

Mr McLean: I want to comment briefly on the remarks made by my colleague from York Mills. I want to direct my comments to this bill we're debating, Bill 86, the Gasoline Tax Act. The Minister of Transportation has to be very disappointed in the budgetary policies of the government, because the revenue side of the gasoline tax, fuel tax, vehicle and driver registration fees totals some \$2.6 billion or a little better, and the government sees fit to allow the ministry to spend about \$850 million. We have a difference here of almost \$2 billion that is taken in by the government in revenues through the gas tax and those taxes I had indicated and only \$850 million goes back out to repair the roads. So is it any wonder the roads in the province are in the state and the condition we see today? How come we're not fast-tracking the twinning of Highway 11 or Highway 400 north to Sudbury?

The Treasurer does not have his priorities right when he cuts back the Ministry of Transportation, which raises

all these funds that go into general revenues. This gasoline tax is supposed to be going to build roads. The budgetary policies of this government are wrong. They are increasing the debt in order to try to see fit to carry on governing this province in a way that most of us will pay for in many years to come.

The Acting Speaker: Further comments or questions?

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I was very much impressed this afternoon by the presentation of my colleague the member for York Mills. He talked about the increase in gasoline tax as something that's going to be very damaging to our economy and already has been: 1.7 cents per litre twice, 3.4 cents in total, a 10% increase in the tax. He talked about the concern in rural Ontario, northern Ontario and the tourism sector with respect to tax increases like this one and including this one.

There are a number of different taxes that have been increased in the last year and a half by this government, and not just tax increases. We find the fishing licence for non-residents is going up to \$45. The price of beer has gone up, the price of gasoline is going up. All of these increases send a signal to our potential tourist customers that Ontario is not the sort of place they want to come to. We have a very expensive product and we're making it more and more expensive as we go, so this sort of thing is going to be very damaging to our tourist sector.

In rural Ontario we don't have access to extensive transit systems, so we have no choice but to use our cars. Many of the people in my riding drive older cars. They have less fuel-efficient cars and they have no choice but to buy gas. So this tax once again kicks them in the teeth.

I am very disappointed in the presentations that have come forward from the government side this afternoon. They've continued to justify this tax increase as absolutely inevitable, when, as we know, if they would only limit their spending, as our party has calculated, to 1% this year, we wouldn't have to be seeing any tax increases. In fact, we could have seen a tax cut of \$1 billion. So once again we see the government in a rather pathetic attempt to defend its taxation policies.

I want to again thank and congratulate my colleague the member for York Mills for his reasoned presentation on what is really happening in this province.

1710

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for York Mills has two minutes to respond.

Mr Turnbull: I would comment briefly on my friend the member for Cochrane South. He seems to have missed the point. I was not suggesting that in one fell swoop we reduce the deficit to 0%. What I was saying is that we have to slowly get into balanced budgets. We must; it's essential, but you're not going in that direction at all. If we had seized the opportunity this year we would have had the potential for a reduction in taxes of \$1 billion, instead of an increase of \$1 billion.

The member for Oriole suggested that the NDP was at fault, but I have to say that it was the Liberal government that increased the spending. In the best years we've had in the last 50 years ran a deficit. We understand that you might

run some deficit in bad times, but the Liberals added \$10 billion to the deficit. That is something you inherited. We know that; we accept that; but don't emulate the doing so by the Liberal Party. Let us make sure you're going in the right direction.

The only way is to start spending more wisely. Some of the ways this government is spending are totally misplaced. You should've put a cap on the transfer agencies. You gave them a 1% increase. You should have capped their wages, because it's the only way, when you're downloading like that, that you can control local taxes. Unless you control that, we're going to see huge property tax increases. It's your fault. There's nobody else to blame. You've been in opposition for so many years blaming people, but this is on you. You are increasing property taxes, whether you like it or not. You missed the boat on this budget, as you did on the last one.

Finally, you didn't spend the \$100 million on the Trans-Canada Highway that you promised.

Mrs Caplan: A point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker: The member for York Mills has suggested that the information I gave to the House was not truthful. In fact, it was truthful. The Liberal government ran balanced operating budgets, and for the member to suggest that is not true is an affront to me personally.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member for Oriole. That's not a question of privilege, unfortunately.

Mrs Caplan: It is.

The Acting Speaker: It certainly is a difference of opinion. Thank you very much. Further debate? The member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: We are finally getting to the end of the debate on last year's budget bill in regard to the gasoline tax, Bill 86. I'm glad to see that the opposition wants to move this along speedily. If you give me the time, I'll take only about five minutes.

I thought it would be remiss of me not to get up and say just a couple of things on this in order to put it into perspective. We've sat in the House—for those people who have tuned in and been watching us on the parliamentary channel for some two or three days—to talk about Bill 86, a bill in order to increase the gasoline tax last year.

I want to make a couple of points very quickly. The first thing is that the role of the opposition obviously is to take a look at what the government's doing and make sure we do it on the straight and narrow. That I buy. Our government, the NDP, sat in opposition for many years and did that with such finesse that one day we found ourselves in government, I guess. It was part of the thing.

But for the opposition to sit there—I have a problem with this—and say that we shouldn't have raised those particular taxes, we should've left the taxes alone when it comes to gasoline, I think is fairly interesting in light of the record of both the Liberal government when it was in power and the Conservative government when it was in power. They had no remorse whatsoever in raising gasoline taxes to the point that—everybody remembers what they were paying for gas; in 1981 we in the north were

paying somewhere about 4.6 cents a litre for regular unleaded gas—we find ourselves today at 17.7 cents a litre just in the taxation portion of what we pay for gas.

Of the move from 4.6 cents in 1981 to the 17.7 cents we find ourselves with in 1992, the NDP is responsible for roughly about 1.5 cents. For both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party to stand in this House and chastise the government of Ontario for raising the retail sales tax I think doesn't stick with the people of Ontario, because the people of Ontario remember. They don't have short memories. They were driving and going to the gas pumps for years in the 1970s and the 1980s as they watched these taxes go up.

Yes, they will also remember the NDP government, because we did raise gasoline taxes by 1.5 cents per litre. But the point I am making is that for the opposition parties to sit there and take the position that if they had been in government they would've never done this, I think is somewhat—I'm not going to say it because I'd be ruled out of order for being unparliamentary, but I think you can get my general drift.

What's the old saying? Those who have not sinned can cast the first stone. I don't think there's anybody in this House who can do that. It brings us to the whole discussion about taxation. The increase of roughly 1.5 cents per litre in gasoline tax last year was done for a reason. Sure, everybody in Ontario, including people from the steelworkers' halls to the Canadian Auto Workers' halls to the corporate executives on Bay Street, would not like to see any new taxes. There's no question about that. Of the 130 members who sit in this Legislature and represent the people from their ridings, none would like to see new taxes.

But the reality is that there are services for the people of this province that were put in place by the Conservative caucus when it was in government for some 40-some-odd years. Many of those services are very good ones and very good programs that were put in place to serve the people of this province. The Liberals, in government for five years, also added services for the people of Ontario.

What happens? Those things cost money, and because they cost money we have to pay the bill. You just cannot turn around all of a sudden, when you have moved from expenditures of some \$30 billion back in the 1980s to where we're at \$50 billion because of the new programs that were put in place by both the Conservative and Liberal governments and us, to a certain extent, and also take into account that there have been a lot of inflationary cost increases to all these programs, and say, "You can't go out and tax and you can't go out and get money in order to pay for these things," because the converse is that you'd have to take them away.

I don't see anybody in my constituency—I think the 130 members who sit here could say the same—who would come in and say we don't need those particular services. What people say to members is, "We want you to manage judiciously." There is no question, but I think we can talk about that at greater length in another debate, because it would go away from the subject of Bill 86. The point I'm getting at is that you just don't get to the point of

saying all of a sudden: "Boom. Take \$10 billion out of the budget and don't worry about how you do it, because it can't be done that way." It does take some time to manage the cost of government, and I would ask people to look at their own experience of being able to manage within their own households with the funds they have.

The whole question of taxation of gas I guess is interesting because most people in this province are drivers and most of these drivers own their own automobiles. Every day, every two days or every week we need to go to the friendly gas station on the corner. We've got to pick up gasoline at those pumps because that's what fuels our cars. We, the 130 politicians who sit here, understand that every time the taxpayer goes to fill up his gas tank he sees more taxes and somehow gets upset. I think all of us at one time probably got upset going to that same pump, but I come back to the point that we must pay for those services.

I want to just touch on one thing very quickly on the expenditure side. One of the members said in a previous debate that we really missed a golden opportunity: the government could have come in and capped wages and done a varied amount of things in order to keep expenditures down so that we didn't have to put a gasoline tax on last year.

The reality is that when you look at the experience of what happened with wage controls back in the 1970s, yes, we managed over a short period of time by capping the wages of the public service, and that transcended into the private sector to keep those collective agreements down and keep the raises down. There's no question about that. That happened for a couple of years.

But let's think back to what happened once the wage controls came off. Workers came back with a vengeance and said: "Listen, I had to take the brunt of this thing for two years. Now it's my chance to go back to try to make up the losses that I had."

The point is that we must deal openly with our people in the workplace in order to try to find ways of finding solutions to very difficult problems. Collective bargaining, at its best, is a difficult target at times, but we must work together in order to get there.

I'm not going to say any more on this point. I think I've gone about as long as I'm going to go on this. The only point I want to make is that for a member of the opposition to stand in this House and preach through the assembly to the people of this province that if it were the government it wouldn't have done this as far as raising taxes on gas as we did in the 1990-91 budget, I think is not quite fair. They only need to look at their own record, because they both formed governments and went on to tax increases.

The Conservative government raised gas taxes four times per year from 1981 to 1985. They went from 4.6 cents a litre at the beginning of 1981 and boosted it up to 5.4 cents by the end of May. By July 1 they had it up to 6 cents a litre as far as tax, by the end of October to 6.3 cents, and the list goes on. It's a litany. Every quarter they would raise the price of gas by some half a cent a litre, one cent a litre, just creeping up there to bring the price up, hoping people wouldn't notice. But I think people did notice.

1720

Then the Liberals will stand and say: "We were better, we would never do that in a time of recession because in a time of recession you don't add new taxes. If you do that, it will scare the economy." If you take a look at it, in a time of recession they did the exact same thing.

The Liberals came to power in 1985, if my memory serves correct. The tax on gas in 1985 when the Liberals came to power was eight cents per litre. That's what we were paying for one litre of unleaded regular gas. By the time they came out of office in 1990 the tax on gas was 16 cents a litre for that same litre. It had doubled in five years of Liberal government.

So to sit here and chastise us on this, I think, is somewhat hard to take, not only as a government member but also as a person who lives in this province as a citizen. Nobody on this thing is squeaky clean. I'll put it as bluntly as that. With that I'll give the floor, if anybody has any questions, and I would end debate at that point. I urge us to get on with this bill, to pass it at third reading and move on with the business of Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments, the honourable member for Oriole.

Mrs Caplan: The comment I would like to make is that the member for Cochrane South seems not to understand the criticisms that have been brought forward by members of the official opposition to the government's fiscal policy. I bring his attention to pages 88 and 89 in this budget. The concern we have is that the trend of government expenditure as a percentage of GDP—as the trend of the total debt as a percentage of GDP—is going in the wrong direction. My concern is that we have a pattern of both expenditure and debt financing by this NDP government which runs totally contrary to governments, both Conservative and Liberal, in the past. This budget document shows that trend from 1983-84 right through the budget plan of 1992-93.

I'd point out further to the member that in the following statement at the end of the budget the Treasurer has in fact acknowledged that the trend is more than worrisome, it is a real concern. In the debate of this gasoline tax it is exactly that concern we are expressing and I am expressing, that this government's expenditure pattern began 18 months ago with a 14% expenditure increase; has resulted in the kind of trend which has caused us to see a reduction in our credit rating, and has resulted in the kind of trend which has created concern in the investment climate, the business community and those who would look to Ontario as a safe and secure place for future investment.

The member doesn't seem to understand that. I would like to take this opportunity to point that out to him and suggest it is the fiscal policy of his government that we are objecting to.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments, the honourable member for York Mills.

Mr Turnbull: The member for Cochrane South seems to have missed the whole flow of this discussion we're having. He talks about Liberal and Conservative governments having raised taxes in the past. We did. We probably

raised them too much. I wasn't around here so I wasn't to blame. Nevertheless, what you're missing in this is that taxes are cumulative. The tax increases you are bringing in now are on top of the existing tax increases that both the Liberal and Conservative governments in the past have raised. You are still raising those taxes, so you are doubly guilty.

We see a reduction in the credit rating simply because the bond rating agencies do not have confidence in the way you're conducting your government, and I go back to the inflation you speak about that you have to adjust for in gas prices. Inflation, to a great extent, was fuelled by governments in both the 1980s and now. As a matter of fact, the only inflation that's in the economy is from governments. We have a very low inflation rate this year. This year's budget deficit, your increase in revenues, is two and a half times the inflation rate, so governments are causing that inflation.

Don't talk to us about the fact that you need to increase to adjust for inflation. This is not an adjustment for inflation, this is a cumulative amount of taxes you are gathering. Maybe the Conservatives were bad and the Liberals were bad, but you are now the government and you have the responsibility to react to that, and don't say, "We're fixing it," by raising taxes. That isn't addressing the issue. It misses the fundamental question of taxation when you suggest that we were raising taxes. Yes, but you are raising them on top of that.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Perruzza: Once again, I have a bit of pleasure to be able to participate in this debate. Once again, I want to reiterate how difficult it is to participate in any tax debate. I would urge some of the opposition members, both the Liberals and Conservatives, to remove the mothballs from their ears because obviously they're not listening.

I think I can speak for all members of the House that when we talk about taxes and when we talk about the issue of raising taxes each individual member of this place would strongly oppose any increase in any tax measure. Obviously it is a very difficult thing to do, but you have to live within certain fiscal realities. One of the realities in the province of Ontario right now is that there's such a dramatic drop in revenues that in order to sustain any kind of program or any level of programming, you obviously have to look at the tax side of the equation and look at it seriously and try to do the least amount of damage possible when you try to address those very specific tax issues.

Again, I want to point to a fallacy, the myth that Conservatives and Liberals—especially from what I'm hearing today, and they're pointing the fingers. Their traditional answer to this kind of a debate is that they level accusations at the government. But I look at other Conservative governments, at municipal levels, at school board levels, and quite frankly they raise taxes and then lay the blame at someone else's doorstep.

This has been a Conservative and Liberal trend, not only from province to province to province, but from municipal school board governments, provincial governments,

the federal government. Quite frankly, I think we should all accept a little bit of the blame.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Stockwell: When we debate tax increases and revenue sources, there is a certain inevitability that the government members offer. Why is the inevitability offered? Well, when you look at a P&L from every business, major corporation or government—

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): They don't know what a P&L is.

Mr Stockwell: When you examine a P&L, you have to ask, "Why is this revenue needed?" and you will automatically go to the expenditure side of a P&L and you'll look at spending. If you examine spending from this government, you'll see that 18.5% increase in spending in two years compounded probably over 20%, so that's where the insatiable need for revenues comes from. You can't increase spending by some 20% in two years without a direct need for more revenue.

There are only two sources of revenue: You either raise taxes or licences or you acquire debt. Those are the only two ways government has of getting revenue. So where does the problem begin? It all begins back on the spending side. If you weren't increasing spending by over 20% in two years, you wouldn't need to generate the revenue, and you generate the revenue through taxes or increases in deficit. It's a very simple process that all businesses understand and accept and householders, any householder. It's kitchen table economics.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): If you don't have it, don't spend it.

Mr Stockwell: You can't take \$100 through the front door and spend \$150 out the back. So when the member stands up and says, "We need more money to run the government," they need more—

Mr Hope: How do you get loans? How do you take mortgages out?

Mr Stockwell: A mortgage is a capital expenditure. You borrow for it, understood, but you pay it off. These deficits aren't paid off, they're accrued. You pile on top of deficit after deficit. The final analysis is that you have to raise the taxes. You have to increase the taxes or your debt because they can't stop spending.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Cochrane South has two minutes to respond.

1730

Mr Bisson: Just very quickly, first of all, I'll start with the member for Etobicoke West. The member talks about in business what you do is look at the expenditure side whenever you start getting in a position where you are losing your profit or you are getting into a deficit situation. Yes, that is an exercise you go through within a business, that you obviously look at the expenditure side. That is why this government has looked at the expenditure side and is keeping on looking at it and working at it, and up to this year we have found \$3 billion in savings in the government operations. That is a significant amount of money.

The other point the member for Etobicoke West talks about is that you don't look at the revenue side if you're in business.

Mr Stockwell: You never ran a business in your life. What did you run?

Mr Bisson: Excuse me. Every business that I've ever known that ever operated within my community—I was in small business for five years, sir, and I know what the heck I'm talking about. All right?

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member please address the Chair.

Mr Bisson: The point is that you also look at your revenue side if you're in business. You take a look at, "How much can I raise it and how much will the market bear?" That's what you sit down and you take a look at, and if you make the determination that the market won't bear it, you take a look at the revenue side. You look at the expenditure side, no question—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Bisson: The member for York Mills raised a very interesting argument. People come into my constituency office and they ask me, "How come the Conservative Party puts forward such simple ideas to what are supposedly complex problems?" "They don't make any sense," they tell me. This is one of these cases. He says somehow we are doubly sinful because we have raised taxes on gasoline and we shouldn't have done it because other governments have done it before. Because other governments have done it before, for us to do it is somehow double jeopardy for us. What an argument. Where that comes from, I really cannot fathom.

On the member for Oriole, I've got a couple of seconds left. She spoke on issues that I didn't raise in the debate, so I will reserve comment on whatever she had to say to another debate. But again, he who has not sinned can throw the first stone. Everybody who has been in government in this House has done the exact same things, but they did it with a vengeance. All we did is one and a half cents.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Ottawa South.

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): This debate has gone on for some time now and it's my hope that I'll be able to contribute something a bit different. I think for those people who are just joining us, it might do well for me to remind them we're talking about Bill 86, the Gasoline Tax Amendment Act. That's a piece of legislation which increased the taxes on our gasoline by 1.7 cents per litre effective April 30, 1991, and another increase in the same amount effective January 1, 1992. The net result was a 30% increase in the gas taxes.

The perspective I want to take at the outset is one which deals with the wording with which this tax was introduced to us. Some of the most powerful people in politics today are the wordsmiths, those people who know how to pick the right words, put them in the right order and thereby increase the comfort factor for the listener or the reader, notwithstanding the facts. I am sure you will agree that's a very powerful art.

I want to look at the words that were used in introducing this tax to us in the budget of April 1991. In here it says, "To promote greater fuel conservation, we are increasing the rates of tax on gasoline and diesel fuel immediately by 1.7 cents per litre and by an additional 1.7 cents on January 1, 1992."

Mrs Marland: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think the people in the House would like to hear the comments by the member for Ottawa South and I do not believe at this point in time we have a legal quorum.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the Clerk to ascertain if there is quorum in the House.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is present, Speaker.

Mr McGuinty: I was saying that it is interesting to note the wording that was used in the 1991 budget, where it's stated, "To promote greater fuel conservation, we are increasing the rates of tax on gasoline and diesel fuel immediately by 1.7 cents per litre and by an additional 1.7 cents on January 1, 1992."

It goes on to say: "We wish to be sensitive to the recession—which is why these increases are in two stages. But the message is clear: We want to encourage the efficient use of energy." It then goes on to provide, "To reinforce the environmental message, I am announcing changes to the gas guzzler tax rates as of July 1, 1991."

I think the key wording in here for our purposes, in terms of the argument I'm about to make, are the words, "To promote greater fuel conservation." It goes on to say, "But the message is clear: We want to encourage the efficient use of energy," and then, "To reinforce the environmental message." The thrust of these words, of course, is to colour this tax, so to speak, as a green tax.

I think in so doing we're getting into an area here that is fairly controversial. Many people in the marketing industry now are colouring various products, labelling them somehow as being green, as being beneficial to the environment, in the hope of capitalizing on the genuine and sincere interest our public has in promoting products that are beneficial to the environment, or at least not overly harmful.

The Treasurer would have us believe, essentially, through that wording that the reason he's introducing this tax is for the good of the environment. A couple of questions arise from that: Surely, if that is in fact the case, how many of these revenues are going to be dedicated specifically to environmental programs? I think the answer to that is very clear: none. Furthermore, we can ask, what studies did the Treasurer do with respect to these measures to ensure there were going to be some environmental benefits accruing from the tax? Again, it's my understanding that there are none.

I think it would be worth our while to look at a debate that took place back in December 1988. At that time, the then Liberal government had introduced a tax bill similar to this one, only it was introducing a tax by one cent and not the 3.4 cents here. I want to quote to you, Mr Speaker, some of the observations at the time made by

our esteemed Treasurer of the day. I'm quoting from December 7, 1988.

He says: "If this government wants to make some impact on the environment in a positive sense, let it do so but not under the guise of an environmental act that simply is designed to increase revenues from the long-suffering motorists in Ontario."

He goes on to say: "This is not simply we, as opposition members, complaining about this sales tax grab. It really is just an extension of the sales tax. It really has nothing to do with the environment."

He goes on: "This is not an environmental bill at all and for the minister to pretend it is—if he were really serious about it, I would accuse him of misleading the House, but I do not think he is serious when he says it is an environmental bill and therefore I will not accuse him of misleading the House and the Canadian public."

My last quotation from the Treasurer in that debate of December 7, 1988, is when he says:

"When I say I oppose this bill, I do so not simply because it is going to increase revenues to the government. If we are honest with ourselves, we know governments must raise taxes to provide the programs they deliver, and I have no problem with that, but what I do have a problem with is when something is done under the pretence of something else, as in this case, for example.

"The Minister of the Environment said this is an environmental bill. That is absolute hogwash. This is simply a way of increasing tax revenues to the government, and the government is not doing with it what it should be doing."

I say those words were well spoken and they have just as much merit today as they did then. Of course, they come from a very reliable source, our esteemed Treasurer. He obviously at the time was advocating honesty with respect to the imposition of taxes and essentially said, "If you're going to tax people, then don't pretend you're doing something else."

I want to quote a couple of other passages arising from that debate, one from the member for Lake Nipigon—I want to take advantage of his presence here—and one from the member for Rainy River, the Attorney General. Again, these arise out of a debate relating to Bill 121, introduced in a budget of 1988 by the then Liberal government, where they were increasing tax on gasoline by one cent. Again I want to quote some of the very cogent, capable arguments made by the member for Lake Nipigon.

He said, "I really take no pleasure in standing up today to talk about Bill 121, which is another systematic, deliberate and punitive measure to grab more money out of the consumers, especially those less fortunate in northern Ontario." A very capable argument, very well said.

1740

He goes on to say:

"Where will it end? We are talking about a necessity, not a luxury. We do not have public transportation systems. Every time we go to the marketplace, we have to use the car to go shopping. We travel to Thunder Bay, in our case, for medical services. Every time we leave home, we take our car to go to work. We take our car to go downtown and check the mail—while we still have a postal system. We

go to Thunder Bay, we visit relatives, we drive back and forth. We are constantly driving. We should get a tax break, but we are not getting a tax break. We are paying \$400 more a year on average to drive a car in northern Ontario than they are in southern Ontario."

Finally he says:

"When we are talking about Bill 121, it is a very sad day for the people of the north. I share the feeling of many of my constituents that there was no need for this. It represents government at its worst. The government of the day will be judged very harshly because this does not begin to do justice." Again, very well spoken.

We should keep in mind that those arguments were made regarding a tax bill that was increasing the tax by one cent. Bill 86 raises the tax by 3.4 cents in addition to that one cent, and it is raising those funds in the context of a very severe recession.

In that debate, the member for Rainy River said the following:

"For those individuals who are engaged in the practice of logging transportation, or indeed any other kind of transportation in northwestern Ontario, this tax bill and this increase in the gasoline tax is a direct attack on his quality of life, his standard of living and his capacity to make a living. In that sense, it is a grossly unfair attack on people who have to earn their livelihoods in the field of transportation."

He goes on to say:

"If the government wants to help the environment, it should go after some of the paper companies and the mining companies who have specialized in polluting the environment for years and years. Do not go after some guy who is making the minimum wage plus 10 cents an hour."

I conclude with this quotation made, again, by the member for Rainy River, our Attorney General:

"I say again to the government, the small business people who are trying to sell gasoline in many of the border communities cannot afford this gasoline tax, they cannot afford the unfair impact, they cannot afford to see their customers flee across the border to northern Minnesota.

"The government is simply taking money out of the pockets of those people who are already hard-pressed, who already have a hard time paying the tax bite that is there. It is simply robbing them of a quality of life, a standard of living, that is below the average of Ontario and a standard of living they already have to work too hard at, and devote too many hours of the day to to preserve it in any way.

"So I say to this government, this is a very shameful act indeed. This is a very shameful increase in the gasoline tax."

Again, words well spoken. The issue, of course, is that that was then and this is now. I guess the question we have to ask ourselves is, what has happened since that time? What kind of preternatural transformation do we undergo when you and I, Mr Speaker, move from this side of the House to that side of the House? Is there something about sitting on your right hand that somehow is a function of what we say and do, as opposed to sitting on your left? Is it sitting in government or in opposition that somehow we

are expected to say different things? I'm not sure if that is acceptable any longer to the public, assuming it ever was.

George Orwell, in his classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, coined a couple of terms which I always thought were fairly staggering in their implications. You've probably read this, Mr Speaker, and are familiar with these: He talked about "doublespeak" and "doublethink." In that novel, the author tells us that the government, which controls the characters—Big Brother is how government is referred to there—is at war with one country one day and at war with another one the next, and the one with which it had previously been at war is now its friend. So something that was good suddenly becomes something that is bad and vice versa; something that was acceptable suddenly becomes unacceptable. Those transitions are not dependent on the facts, but rather the facts remain the same and that transition is based merely on the interpretation given to those facts.

I see some very dangerous signs of doublethink and doublespeak in this government. I'm going to relate a few of the issues. One of them of course is this gas tax. I've just highlighted for you some of the passages in an earlier debate in this House, back in 1988, when those members of the government were members of the opposition and decried the tax as being totally unacceptable and wreaking tremendous hardship on various communities in the province, particularly northern communities. That was one example of doublespeak and doublethink. What was unacceptable at the time is now today suddenly acceptable.

Another example of course is the issue of casinos. At one time we were told by the members of the government when they were in opposition—

The Acting Speaker: I just ask the honourable member to try to bring Bill 86 back into his remarks so that the House can hear and pay attention to remarks bearing on that bill.

Mr McGuinty: I appreciate your direction in that regard, Mr Speaker. I think perhaps something that's a bit closer to the heart of the member for Lake Nipigon is that in the provincial campaign we underwent, the Premier indicated quite clearly, as did members of the opposition now sitting in government, that he was in favour of equalizing gasoline prices throughout the province or of regulating them in one manner or another. Of course it was advocated at the time, but now that they sit in government that is no longer the case.

In fact, they've indicated, I think quite rightly, that this would not be the proper approach to take; that is, to equalize. The fact of the matter is that the gasoline prices and the factors influencing those are fairly sophisticated. It's not as simple as saying we are going to regulate these kinds of things. Nova Scotia has provided us with an example in that regard, where that kind of experience simply did not work out. As a result, the government has decided to do away with that kind of regulation. In fact, at the time the regulation was in effect, Nova Scotians, as I understand it, were paying more for gasoline than anybody else in the country.

The tragic fallout effect of this doublethink and double-speak is that they add to the credibility gap between politicians and the electorate. It just adds fuel to the fire. It tells our public, as far as it's concerned, that we're giving it more evidence of just how unworthy we are of its support, trust and faith. Of course, Mr Speaker, what it does to both you and I and every member of this House is interfere with our ability to perform our jobs.

Every time any one of us tells a different story when the facts haven't changed, then we end up not only causing difficulty for ourselves, if we ourselves have told that story, but causing difficulty for our fellow politicians, because most people don't distinguish between politicians. They don't distinguish between those who sit in government and those who sit in opposition, those who are members of one party or another, those who are members of different levels of government. As far as our public is concerned, by and large a politician is a politician is a politician.

If any one of us breaches that privileged trust we have with our public, then we all sooner or later pay for it. It's my hope in recounting those passages that all of us can lend our minds to the kinds of difficulties that arise when we say one thing in opposition and another in government.

Lest I be criticized as having opposed everything and proposed nothing, I just want, in light of fact that the Treasurer has made of this an issue as to this being an environmental tax, to highlight a few of the ideas that are floating around out there that in fact would be very worthwhile, I believe, for the government and the Minister of Energy to explore. These are different methods. I'm not advocating any in particular, but I'm recommending them all generally to the government for study.

One of the things the studies in the United States have shown is that half the pollution generated by motor vehicles is produced by 10% of the fleet, and that 10% is improperly maintained and tuned. Most of those pollution-generating cars are 10 years and older.

1750

One of the ideas that has been adopted in California is a bounty program, and that's where the government pays a bounty on older, less efficient cars. If we were to consider doing that, then we would want to do it possibly hand in hand with a gas tax such as this one in order to fund that bounty.

The other thing we could be doing, if our sincere desire is to minimize the amount of damage being caused by motor vehicles to the environment, is to promote the use of alternate fuels. Of course I'm talking about natural gas and propane. We have electric vehicles, which are coming along quite nicely in terms of their technological development. There's even, I understand, a BMW being produced right now which is being fuelled by hydrogen.

The other thing we should be looking at is special lanes for car poolers. That's another program that exists in parts of California, which provides that we can in fact allow certain lanes to be occupied primarily or only by emergency vehicles and people who are pooling their vehicles.

Road pricing is another aspect, more controversial, which has been tried in Singapore and which is now about to be implemented in Cambridge, England. That's a rather

fascinating one. That's where you're not charging for the car and the size of the engine but rather for the usage. It's one thing for us to charge a gas guzzler tax for someone who buys an automobile with a large engine, but if that person merely buys the car to drive to church on Sundays, for instance, then they're not really using it that much. So what we should be trying to target in many ways is usage.

This road pricing approach provides that when a car enters a certain portion of a city—in Singapore there's a mechanism which is located under the hood, which registers with a beacon located at one part of the city and switches on the mechanism on the way in, and it switches it off when you leave the city. It makes a record of how much time is spent inside the core. The special charge is levied for taking your car into the core of a particular city.

The other thing we can do, of course, which has much to recommend itself to us, is simply promote bicycling. I know this government is presently reviewing its policy with respect to bicycling generally and its funding of bicycle lanes. Bicycling is surely a winner in all aspects. Not only does it promote health; it doesn't pollute and it doesn't cost much. So I'm certainly hoping that we'll hear more from that.

The other program that's in place, I believe in Vancouver and also at the present time in California, is an inspection maintenance program that provides that all cars up to 20 years old have to undergo a smog test every two years before they can be reregistered. These smog stations are privately owned. It also recognizes the fact that even a new car, if not properly tuned or calibrated, is as potentially harmful to the environment as an older vehicle, and therefore California has found that that particular program is a necessary supplement to any bounty program.

I'm going to conclude my comments. I hope I've been able to contribute something of substance to the debate, and I appreciate the opportunity.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? Since there are no questions or comments, further debate? I see no further debate. Concluding remarks by the parliamentary assistant. We're very close to 6 o'clock. I would ask the honourable parliamentary assistant to remember that.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): As announced in the Treasurer's budget of last year, Bill 86 puts into place the tax increases on gasoline and aviation fuel. Comments have been made during the debate on this bill concerning the related issues, which the minister has responded to.

Bill 86 also contains important provisions that parallel Bill 85, the Fuel Tax Act, concerning amendments to tighten controls on the sale of motor fuels in Ontario and set heavier penalties to eliminate deliberate tax evasion practices. Importers, exporters and transporters of gasoline, aviation fuel or propane now have to be registered and bonded. Those not registered could face prosecution, fines and possible jail terms.

By introducing amendments that will increase monitoring activities and penalties, we are adding to the efficiency of the tax collection and compliance system. In doing so,

we will be increasing provincial revenue by millions of dollars a year.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any questions and/or comments? There are none. I don't believe there is any further debate.

Ms Wark-Martyn has moved a motion for third reading of Bill 86. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members.

I have just received a motion of deferral: "Pursuant to standing order 27(g), I request that the vote on the motion by the Honourable S. Wark-Martyn for third reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, be deferred until immediately following routine proceedings on Tuesday, May 12, 1992." It is signed by Shirley Coppen, MPP, chief government whip and member for Niagara South. The vote is accordingly deferred.

It being six of the clock, I do now adjourn the House until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 1757.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre délégué à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David Sarnia	Scott, Ian G.	L	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
	Huget, Bob	ND	
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe West/-Ouest Sudbury	Wilson, Jim	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
	Murdock, Sharon	ND	
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Prémier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
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Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

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Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

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Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
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D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,
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Règlements et projets de loi privés**

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Resources development/Développement des ressources

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Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget,
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Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

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Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini,
Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

CONTENTS

Monday 11 May 1992

Members' statements	
Bill McNeil	653
Mr Morin	
Orangeville Food Bank	653
Mr Tilson	
Food drive	653
Mr Mills	
Port Weller Dry Docks	653
Mr Bradley	
Development in Renfrew and Perth	654
Mr Jordan	
Charles Alfred Strange	654
Mr Ward	
Tow-truck industry	654
Mr McGuinty	
Police Week	654
Mr Runciman	

Statements by the ministry	
Health budget	656
Ms Lankin	

Responses	
Health budget	
Mrs Sullivan	658
Mr Wilson (Simcoe West)	658

Oral questions	
Retail store hours	660
Mrs McLeod	
Mr Pilkey	
Teachers' dispute	661
Mrs McLeod	
Mr Silipo	
Mr Sterling	
Retail store hours	662
Mr Carr	
Mr Pilkey	

Job creation	663
Mr Phillips	
Mr Laughren	
Youth employment	663
Mr Cousens	
Mr Laughren	
International Space University	664
Mr Mammoliti	
Mr Philip	
Education financing	664
Mr Mahoney	
Mr Silipo	
Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group	665
Mr Cousens	
Ms Ziemba	
Heritage conservation	666
Mr Winniger	
Mrs Haslam	
Health budget	667
Mrs Sullivan	
Ms Lankin	
Video lottery terminals	667
Mr Arnott	
Mr North	
Property assessment	668
Mr Perruzza	
Mr Cooke	
Housing policy	668
Mrs O'Neill	
Ms Gigantes	
Workers' Compensation Board ...	669
Mrs Witmer	
Mr Mackenzie	

Petitions	
Municipal boundaries	
Mr Sorbara	670
Mr Phillips	670

Rent regulation	
Mr Turnbull	670
Labour legislation	
Mr Cousens	670

Third readings	
Gasoline Tax Amendment Act,	
1992, Bill 86	671
Mr Stockwell	671
Mr Perruzza	673
Mrs Caplan	673
Mr McLean	674
Mr Bisson	674
Mr Bradley	675
Mr Hope	680
Mr Pouliot	680
Mr Turnbull	680
Mr Arnott	684
Mr McGuinty	687
Mr Johnson	690
Vote deferred	691

Other business	
Visitors	655
Mr Mammoliti	
The Speaker	
James Noble Allan	655
Mr Sterling	
Mr Laughren	
Mr Conway	
Attendance of cabinet ministers ...	659
Mr Mahoney	
Mr Bradley	
Attendance of members	669
Mr Ferguson	
Mr Mahoney	

JAN 27 1993

